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NO. 7982 THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 21-22, 1990/ZULQAD 28-29, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILS

Ameeri takes oil, Khalifa to finance in reshuffle

Kuwait names cabinet

KUWAIT, June 20, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmud Al Sabah today endorsed a new 22-man cabinet to replace the former one which resigned following the country's general elections on June 10. The new cabinet was submitted to HH the Amir by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah was appointed finance minister in the new cabinet.

Sheikh Ali, a strong advocate of moderate oil prices, was replaced by Rashid Salem Al Ameeri, a university professor of chemical engineering little known in international oil circles.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmud Al Sabah, Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmud Al Sabah — all members of the Kuwaiti ruling family — retained their portfolios.

New cabinet line-up:

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmud Al Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister
Dr. Badr Jassim Al Yaqoub, State Minister for the National Council's Affairs

Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber, Minister for Social Affairs and Labour

Mubarak Al Hamad, Minister for Information

Jassim Mohammed Al Mousa, Minister for Public Works

Habib Jawhar Hayat, Minister for Communications

Dr. Hameed Abdulla Al Rquba, Minister for Electricity and Water

Dr. Rashid Salem Al Ameeri, Minister of Oil

Saleem Sabah Al Salim, Minister of Interior

Suleiman Abdul Razaq Al Mutawa, Minister for Planning

Dhar A. Al Othman, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs

Dr. Abdelrahman A. Al Awadhi, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs

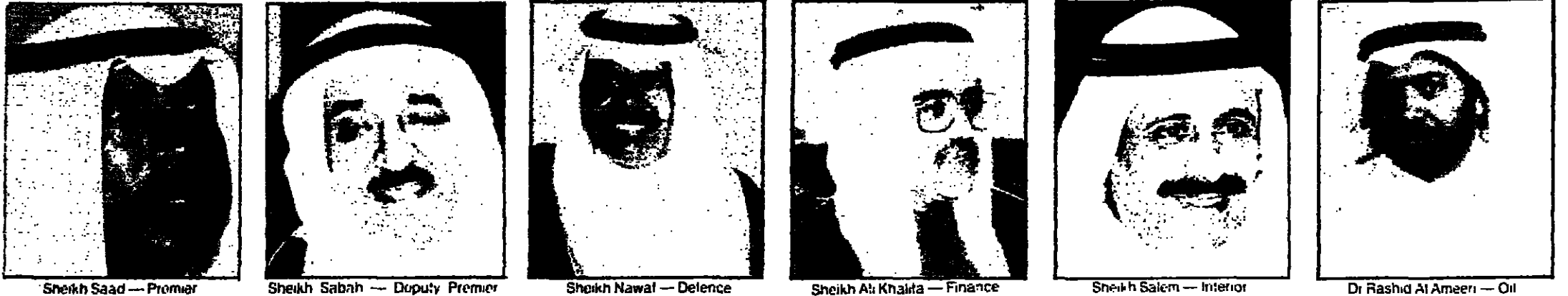
Dr. Abdullah Y. Al Gunaib, Minister of Education

Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, Minister of Finance

Dr. Abdelwahab S. Al Fouzan, Minister of Public Health

Dr. Ali Abdulla Al Shamlan, Minister of Higher Education.

(Continued on Page 10)



Sheikh Saad — Premier Sheikh Sabah — Deputy Premier Sheikh Nawaf — Defence Sheikh Ali Khalifa — Finance Sheikh Salem — Interior Dr. Rashid Al Ameeri — Oil

Bush turns back on PLO

Costa Rica beat Sweden 2-1; Brazil defeat Scotland 1-0



When love needs a home

Four Romanian children infected with Aids at a community hospital in Constantza. Abandoned Romanian children who were tested positive

for Aids virus trapped by bureaucracy and prejudice. (Reuter wire-photo) (Details Page 2)

US breaks off dialogue Call for Arab sanctions

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama, June 20, (Agencies): The United States has suspended its 18-month dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation because of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's refusal to condemn a commando attack on Israel, President George Bush announced today.

"Based on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, I have decided to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO pending a satisfactory response from the PLO of steps it is taking to resolve problems associated with the recent acts of terrorism," Bush

said at a news conference during

a one-day visit to Alabama and

North Carolina.

Bush said the United States

felt Palestinian participation was

vital to a Middle East peace

agreement but set conditions for

resuming a US-PLO dialogue.

Mainly, he said, the PLO must

condemn a May 30 assault by

one of its factions against Israeli

beaches and also discipline the

alleged leader of that raid, a

radical PLO faction leader

known as Abu Abbas.

"We've given the PLO ample

time to deal with this issue. To

date the PLO has not given a

credible accounting of this

incident," the President said.

"Any time the PLO is

prepared to take the necessary

steps, we are prepared to promp-

tly resume the dialogue."

The PLO spokesman termed

the meeting routine but a Bagh-

dad-based Arab diplomat said it

would discuss the latest develop-

ments of the Palestinian uprising

and a US news report that

Washington had decided to

break off its 18-month-old

dialogue with the PLO.

The report said President

George Bush had now decided to

break the talks with the PLO

because its leader Yasser Arafat

had failed to condemn a recent

guerrilla attack on Israel.

Asked to comment on the

report, the PLO spokesman said

the organisation would wait for

an official announcement by

Bush.



President Bush

"We were expecting this any

how," he told Reuters without

elaborating.

A senior Palestinian official

said he expects the PLO to call for

Arab economic sanctions

against Washington.

Jamil Hilal, director of the

PLO's information department,

told the Associated Press in a

telephone interview from Tunis

that the US move would

encourage Israel's headline

government under Prime Min-

ister Yitzhak Shamir to "escalate

its repression against the Arab

population under occupation."

(Continued on Page 9)

Don't turn back on ME peace bid

Pickering leaves Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE United States has appealed to the Arab states not to turn their back on the Middle East peace process despite its current critical phase and urged Israel to talk to Palestinians.

US representative to the United Nations Thomas Pickering, who left Kuwait yesterday after a brief visit, told a news conference that Israel must be persuaded that now is the time to talk to Palestinians.

He said the US was awaiting a final answer from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir following a letter from US President George Bush urging Shamir to respond positively to the US peace plan.



Pickering

But he also told the Arabs: "It is not the time for the Arabs to turn their back on the peace process and walk away or to turn to violence."

Before the expected announcement by Bush on US contacts with PLO, Pickering said the US continues to talk daily to the PLO through its ambassador in Tunis. "We never stopped talking to them," he stressed.

There has been speculation that the US will suspend its talks with the PLO after Palestinian commando's attack on an Israeli

(Continued on Page 10)

Angry general issues warning

I could go: Gorbachev

Go now: Ligachev

MOSCOW, June 20, (Agencies): Soviet Politburo hardliner Yegor Ligachev denounced President Mikhail Gorbachev today and suggested he should relinquish the Communist Party leadership.

Ligachev, speaking at a communist conference marked by angry attacks on Gorbachev, accused the president of taking key economic and foreign policy decisions without consulting top party bodies.

A split in the party, which has ruled the Soviet Union since 1917, was now inevitable, he said.

Tass news agency said Ligachev, "clearly alluding to joint tenancy of the post of party general secretary and president of the USSR," declared: "One cannot head the party, this leading force, without dedicating all one's time to it."

The attack on 59-year-old Gorbachev came 12 days before a crucial party congress which could decide the future of communism in the Soviet Union and Gorbachev's political fate.

Gorbachev, clearly angered by attacks against him at a communist forum, raised the possibility today that the party could soon have a new leader.

Gorbachev, trying to ward off a split in his party, appeared to be speaking hypothetically when he intervened at a meeting of Russian communists to complain about criticism of him. But his comments reflected frustration over the debate, just two weeks before a crucial party congress.

"I think some comrades are treating the general secretary and president very casually," Gorbachev told the conference. "It's not a question of me (personally). Tomorrow or in 10 or 12 days, there could be another general secretary."

"Before making a judgement and still more making accusations you have got to know and understand ... if there is such an attitude by those at the conference to those nominated at such a turning point in history, we can't end up anywhere but in chaos," he said.

A Soviet general said yesterday Gorbachev's reforms had left the country open to attack and vowed the armed forces would never accept "ideological surrender."

Army General Albert Makashov, standing yards from Gorbachev at the conference of Russian communists, also recalled an incident in 1953 when the military intervened in politics.

"Germany is reuniting and will probably become a member of Nato, Japan is becoming a decisive force in the Far East. Only our learned peacocks are crowing that no one is going to attack us," he said in a reference to Kremlin leaders which drew thunderous applause.

"Comrades, the army and navy will be needed yet by the (Soviet) Union," he added.

Boris Yeltsin, head of the Soviet Union's biggest republic, may suspend his membership of the Communist Party to make himself a better leader, Pravda said today.



Kuwaiti and Lebanese officials with the trucks, loaded with the aid, behind them.

Pakistan rejects rebel govt

Militants exchange gunfire with Indian forces in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, June 20, (Reuter): Indian officials today welcomed Pakistan's rejection of a provisional government announced by Muslim militants fighting Indian rule in disputed Kashmir.

Official sources described the decision as a "positive step."

They said it ruled out another option on the Kashmir issue, an independent Jammu and Kashmir as proclaimed by Amanullah Khan,

Pakistan-based chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

More than 600 people have been killed since mid-January when militants in the Kashmir valley stepped up a campaign for independence or union with Pakistan.

Hundreds held in Madras

MADRAS, India, June 20, (Agencies): Police in India's Tamil Nadu state said they arrested 400 Sri Lankan Tamil militants today after 16 people died in an internecine attack in the southern city of Madras.

The state government ordered the round-up after 20 men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and grenades last night stormed a Madras apartment block where exiled Tamil leader Kandaswamy Padmanabha lived.

Press Trust of India said a Sri Lankan and another local died in hospital today, bringing the death toll to 16. Another 13 people are still being treated for bullet injuries.

Padmanabha, 11 members of his Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and a civilian were killed. Two other EPRLF members, including Sri Lankan Member of Parliament Yogasangari, died later in hospital.

Most of those arrested were from the EPRLF, whose members fled to sanctuary in India when the rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gained supremacy in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated northeast province this year.

Police said they suspected the Tigers, whose guerrillas are currently waging a renewed

(Continued on Page 2)

Tamil separatists using chem-arms

India appeals for truce

COLOMBO, June 20, (Reuter): Twenty soldiers are seriously ill after Tamil separatists used chemical weapons in attacks on Sri Lankan forces this week, the government said today.

It said troops, mounting a counter-offensive, had driven fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam from the eastern Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts and from Kalmunai in the Ampara district.

The Tigers, fighting for two decades to set up an independent state for minority Tamils in the northeast, retreated to the jungles as troops advanced, military sources said.

In the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Tiger stronghold, Tiger fighters mounted heavy attacks with mortar bombs and gun fire on three military bases, the sources said.

Fighting in the past 10 days has killed more than 700 rebels and 130 soldiers besides 215 captured policemen reported to have been lined up and shot dead by the insurgents, according to unofficial estimates.

The government said in a statement more than 500 policemen, who were in 20 police stations overrun by the Tigers

(Continued on Page 2)

Amanullah Khan, Pakistan-based chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir liberation grouping (JKLF), said the coalition would step up an independence campaign in the two thirds of the Himalayan state ruled by India, but would not clash with the government in Pakistani Kashmir.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said yesterday that Pakistan backed long-standing UN resolutions calling for a plebiscite to allow Kashmir to decide whether to join Islamic Pakistan or mainly Hindu India.

India has accepted a Pakistani proposal for talks to defuse fears of a fourth war between the two countries, fuelled by Indian charges that Islamabad is arming and training militants. Pakistan denies the allegations.

Official sources in Delhi said India had told Pakistan that any official recognition to the so-called provisional government would seriously jeopardise relations between the two countries.

Militants fighting for independence from India fought pitched gunbattles with Indian security forces in Srinagar today and witnesses said four paramilitary troops were killed.

There was no official confirmation of the deaths. Militants exchanged gunfire with security forces in 14 different parts of Srinagar, the witnesses said.

The fighting broke out an hour before a 10-hour break in curfew was to come to an end in the early afternoon. In the old quarters of the city, the militants and

India and Sri Lanka agreed on a peace plan in 1987 to end the conflict, but the Tigers rejected it and fought the Indian forces that were sent to help enforce the accord.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mandela arrives in US looking for money, moral support against apartheid

NEW YORK, June 20, (AP): Nelson Mandela, a South African freedom fighter who became one of the world's most celebrated political prisoners, arrived today in the United States looking for money and moral support for his battle against apartheid.

"The sanctions should be maintained," Mandela told a cheering crowd shortly after landing at John F. Kennedy international airport, his first stop on a 12-day, eight-city US tour.

"We are saving so because sanctions were introduced

for the purpose of dismantling apartheid, and are making sure that every South African — black and white — is able to determine his own future."

Mandela, accompanied by his wife, Winnie, waved to a cheering crowd as he stepped off the plane and onto a red carpet about 10 minutes after his arrival. Both were presented with scarves in the African National Congress colours of black, green and gold.

"It is a great privilege for me to welcome you and Mrs Mandela. You honour us with your presence," New York

Gov. Mario Cuomo said during a welcome ceremony.

Also at the airport to greet Mandela were his daughter, Zenani, the Rev Jesse Jackson, Mayor David Dinkins, New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio, entertainer Harry Belafonte, and hundreds of supporters and well-wishers.

Dinkins enthusiastically hugged the deputy president of the African National Congress as he walked off the plane. The mayor steered Mandela down a lengthy reception line.

"The presence of Nelson Mandela generates hope around the world," Jackson said prior to Mandela's

arrival. "Just as the walls came down in Berlin, they should come down in South Africa as well."

Mandela's arrival in New York was pushed back nearly two hours because organisers said the 71-year-old leader needed more rest. Mandela had been in Canada on his worldwide fund-raising trip.

Mandela is in the midst of a six-week tour of 14 nations in Africa, Europe, and North America that began June 6 — one day after he was discharged from a Johannesburg hospital after surgery to remove a cyst from his bladder.

INTERNATIONAL

BJP may review support

NEW DELHI, June 20, (Kuna): Rightist Bharatiya Janata Party yesterday threatened to review its support to the National Front government of V.P. Singh if it continues Muslim appeasement policy, talking to newsmen at Jaipur in Rajasthan.

Vice-President of BJP Surinder Singh Bhandari said that he could not rule out the possibility of this party withdrawing support to the V.P. Singh government on the Babri Masjid-Ramjanambhoomi dispute.

Bhandari said "Muslim appeasement of the National Front government was withholding the construction of the Lord Ram temple at disputed Ayodhya place of worship, which Muslims claim a 16th century old mosque and Hindus the birth place of their Lord Ram."

The dispute has been referred to the Allahabad high court to settle the issue.

Meanwhile, efforts were made by V.P. Singh to settle the matter through negotiations.

Bhandari, however, expressed the hope that better senses would prevail upon the government and it would avoid a collision course on this issue. In the past ten days, several statements were made by BJP leaders on the party ties with the National Front government.

L.K. Advani, BJP chief, also criticised the government for its failure to tackle domestic problems.

BJP has more than 85 members in the House of 542-seat Parliament.

9 die, 150 hurt in roof collapse

NEW DELHI, June 20, (AP): The roof of a partially built factory in central India collapsed in high winds yesterday, killing nine labourers and injuring 150 others, a news agency reported.

United News of India said 85 workers were admitted to a hospital near the accident site at Bamore in Madhya Pradesh state, 240 kilometres (150 miles) south of New Delhi.

About 200 labourers were under the roof at the time of the accident, the news agency said. Rescuers were digging in the debris in search of more bodies or trapped survivors, it reported.

Prosecution rests case against Imelda, Khashoggi

NEW YORK, June 20, (AP): The prosecution rested its case yesterday in the fraud trial of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos and Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi.

Defence attorney said they planned to call no witnesses, and the jury will likely begin deliberations next week following legal motions and closing arguments.

"In our view, the government has utterly failed in its case. You only call witnesses if you have a case to rebut," said Mrs Marcos' attorney, Gerry Spence.

The prosecution called 95 witnesses during the three-month trial in Manhattan's federal court.

The witnesses included former Marcos associates who described a pattern of corruption that allegedly enriched Mrs Marcos and her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, during his 20 years in power.

Other witnesses traced the flow of more than \$220 million in allegedly stolen funds from secret Manila bank accounts through Swiss and US banks

to the purchase of four New York office buildings, jewellery and art works.

Mrs Marcos, 60, is charged with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice. If convicted, she faces a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Khashoggi is accused of helping the Marcoses hide their ownership of the real estate after a March 1986 court order froze their assets. If convicted of mail fraud and obstruction of justice, he could be sentenced to 10 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines.

The prosecution's case ended in late afternoon and on an anticlimactic note with assistant US attorney Charles Labella reading the last of the evidence into the record and saying, "your honour, with that the government rests."

Earlier in the day, the prosecution focused on the obstruction of justice and mail fraud charges against the two defendants.

The prosecution entered into evidence the injunction, which was issued in March 1986 in a separate civil lawsuit brought by the Philippine

government to recover the allegedly embezzled funds.

Jeffrey Greenbaum, an attorney who represents the Manila government in the civil case, testified that an agent for Khashoggi, Karl Bock Peterson, sought to enter the civil litigation in September 1986 because he claimed Khashoggi owned the buildings.

Greenbaum also said that Khashoggi personally took part in one of several meetings in Paris in November 1987 at which attorneys tried to reach a settlement of the civil case.

The negotiations, which ultimately failed, included one proposal in which Khashoggi offered to give the Philippine government three of the four buildings in exchange for \$15 million in expenses and also to sell 25 paintings for \$6 million, Greenbaum said.

The government claims the Marcoses transferred the art works along with the buildings to Khashoggi.

Greenbaum said the talks broke down largely because Khashoggi refused to discuss his relationship with the Marcoses.

Kashmir



Behind the sandbags

Indian security forces set up sandbag bunkers near Kashmir's famous Dal Lake in Srinagar after Kashmiri militants launched rocket attack on two hotels from lakeside in which four security men were killed. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Continued from Page 1)

paramilitary troops engaged in gunbattles for more than an hour.

At least one civilian caught in the crossfire was killed and two others wounded.

"It is like war," said a resident of the old city.

In the town of Baramullah, a shopkeeper was killed when paramilitary forces opened fire after hearing what sounded like an explosion.

Militants launched their most daring attack yesterday on Indian security forces when they fired rockets and grenades at two hotels facing Srinagar's famous Dal Lake.

The attack at dawn in which rockets were used for the first time since the campaign for independence was intensified in January killed four security men and damaged the two hotels they and their colleagues occupied.

Indian authorities are still investigating where the militants acquired the rockets. India has frequently blamed Pakistan for supplying arms and training the militants, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said yesterday that Tehran was trying to prevent war between India and Pakistan over disputed Kashmir.

"We have tried and we will continue our efforts to prevent any conflict between these two countries," he told the Islamabad Council of World Affairs, a local discussion group. Velayati said Iran opposed India's crackdown on Muslim militants.

He said Iran believed that a war between India and Pakistan, which says Kashmiris should have the right to decide their own future, would be disastrous.

The source said the Jammu and Kashmir state government was considering restructuring the entire security network in the northern Kashmir valley. Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was to travel to Srinagar for talks on the attack with senior government and military leaders.

The rocket attack yesterday severely damaged the upper floor of the Boulevard Hotel, a four-storey wooden structure on the main boulevard road that curves around lake Dal. The concrete face of the nearby Duke Hotel, also a target of rocket fire, did not appear to be damaged.

A source from the Hizb Ul Mujahadeen, one of the main rebel groups fighting for independence and an ally of the organisation that fired the rockets, said the purpose of the attack was to force the paramilitary forces to withdraw from the hotels.

He said the militants wanted to drive the security forces out of the hotels and into a centralised base somewhere else. Then, he said, "we are going to hit them in a much bigger way."

A witness to the rocket attack said today that four militants had fired the weapons from a small cargo boat tied up at Floating Garden Island, a site where villagers from nearby houseboats have planted vegetable gardens.

The attack came around 5:30 am as the mosques from the city were broadcasting the morning call to prayer. The witness, who asked not to be identified, said the mosques fell silent following the first explosion and did not finish the prayer call.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, head of Pakistan's Jamaate-e-Islami, is currently in Kuwait with a 13-member delegation to seek the support of the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) on Kashmir issue.

He met the political adviser to HH the Amir, Sulaiman Said Ali.



Confiscated rifles

Philippine Constabulary Colonel Agérico Kagaoan (seated right) inspects rifles confiscated from captured members of communist New People's Army during their presentation to reporters at a Manila military camp. (Reuters wirephoto)

Philippine communists and militia clash killing 3

BACOLOD, Philippines, June 20, (AP): Communist guerrillas ambushed a militia convoy in the central Philippines today, killing three people and wounding nine others, the military said.

One militiaman and two civilian women were killed when about 50 New People's Army guerrillas opened fire at two cars in a mountain village outside Silay city, 480 kilometres (300 miles) south of Man-

ila, a military report said.

The reports said the wounded included Edgar Sarrosa, director of the Sugar Development Corp., a private company which finances a pro-government militia on Negros island.

Communist rebels have been waging a 21-year insurgency to establish a Marxist state.

Black fever sweeps Bangla

DHAKA, June 20, (Reuters): Black fever, carried by flies, has killed more than 100 people and made thousands ill in northern Bangladesh, doctors said today.

They said the disease had swept dozens of villages after people fled for environmental reasons stopped using DDT as a pesticide.

Health Minister Azizur Rahman told Parliament yesterday widespread use of DDT killed germ-carrying sand flies and made the country free of black fever in the early 1960s.

"Use of DDT has since been discouraged due to environmental reasons," he said.

Doctors say black fever enlarges a patient's spleen, causes a blood deficiency and weight loss and turns the skin darker.

Twelve thousand doctors were out on strike today throughout Bangladesh because of 'defamatory' remarks.

The Bangladesh Medical Association said emergency services would remain open during the eight-hour stoppage, but threatened to shut them too unless doctors were treated properly.

"This is to register our protest at frequent defamatory statements made about the country's physicians who sometimes also face harassment," a BMA statement said.

BMA was apparently referring to an incident on June 2 when a doctor at the Dhaka medical college hospital slapped a nurse for alleged neglect of duty.

Lanka

A Tamil group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) today accused the Tigers of killing 14 of its leaders in the southern Indian city of Madras yesterday.

The Colombo government statement said that in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts as well as in Kalamunai the troops are clearing mines, booby traps and explosive devices laid by the rebels against advancing troops.

In the clearing operations the soldiers have recovered a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and grenades.

"Reports indicate that the terrorists have suffered severe casualties," the statement said without giving any numbers.

The government statement said the army camp at Kiran in Batticaloa district, which was under siege by rebels since June 11, was freed and more than 60 soldiers who had been trapped there without water, food or medicine were provided immediate relief.

"Twenty soldiers taken seriously ill by the use of chemical weapons by the Tigers on Kiran camp were airlifted to the Polonnaruwa hospital 120 km (75 miles) away," the statement said.

"These soldiers cannot be transferred to Colombo as their condition is said to be serious," it added. A specialist medical team

has been flown to Polonnaruwa.

The statement said that on the Jaffna peninsula rebels continued attacks on the main base in the town, situated in a 16th century Dutch-built fort. They used mortar bombs and heavy and small-arms fire. The fort has been under siege since June 11.

Hundreds held in Madras

(Continued from Page 1)

separatist war in Sri Lanka, of the killings.

"The operational efficiency displayed in the shootout suggests the hand of the LTTE," Tamil Nadu's director-general of police, P. Dorai, told reporters.

Police had rounded up some Tigers, he said.

The EPRLF members had been arrested as "a protective measure" for their own safety, Madras police commissioner K.K. Rajasekharan Nair said.

Yesterday's killings fuelled opposition politicians' charges against Tamil Nadu's ruling regional party that it was not doing enough to stop Tiger activities in the state.

"It is really shocking to hear about the gruesome murders that have taken place on Indian soil," G.K. Mooppanar of India's opposition Congress Party said in a statement.

9 sentenced to death in Dhaka

DHAKA, June 20, (UPI): Nine people were sentenced to death and 27 received life imprisonment at a district court today.

Nurul Wadud, additional district and sessions judge of Brahmanbaria, about 60 miles (100 km) north of Dhaka, acquitted four other persons of the charge of murdering Bir Ojabala and her four children to take their property.

The death sentences will not be

carried until a review by higher courts.

According to reports reaching Dhaka, thousands of people crowded the Brahmanbaria court compound to witness the judgement of the sensational murder case.

Police had to use batons to keep the situation under control. In Bangladesh, 197 people have been hanged since independence in 1971.

Ofelia heads toward Manila

MANILA, June 20, (AP): Tropical storm Ofelia gained strength and resumed moving toward the Philippines on Wednesday after remaining stationary in the Pacific Ocean for nearly 24 hours, officials said.

At noon (0300 GMT), the storm, packing peak winds of 110 kph (69 miles) per hour, was centred about 290 kms (181 miles) east of Borongan on Samar Island, moving northwest at 19 kph (12 mph).

The storm, the second to visit the country this year, had maximum winds of 95 kph (59 mph) seven hours earlier and was expected to pick up more strength as it neared land, said forecasters Lorenzo Canatoy.

On Tuesday, weathermen recorded maximum winds of 7 kph (47 miles) per hour.

A weather advisory warned that the storm's path would experience wind gusts of up to 100 kph (62.5 mph) beginning late Wednesday. A wide area from southeastern Luzon Island, the central Visayas chain to northeastern Mindanao will experience strong winds, heavy rains and rough seas, Canatoy added.

Officials in the Mindanao provinces of Maguindanao and north Cotabato said rains caused by Ofelia and a previous storm resulted in 22.8 million pesos (\$1 million) in damages to crops and irrigation canals in the two southern provinces.

They said floods damaged 2,150 hectares (5,310 acres) of rice and corn valued at 21.5 million pesos (\$977,270) in six Maguindanao towns and in another town in north Cotabato on the main southern island of Mindanao.

A river and a creek also overflowed their banks, causing 13 million pesos (\$59,080) in damage to irrigation canals in two towns in Maguindanao, they said.

The Philippines is struck by an average of 20 storms a year.

Smoking

Manila ban bill

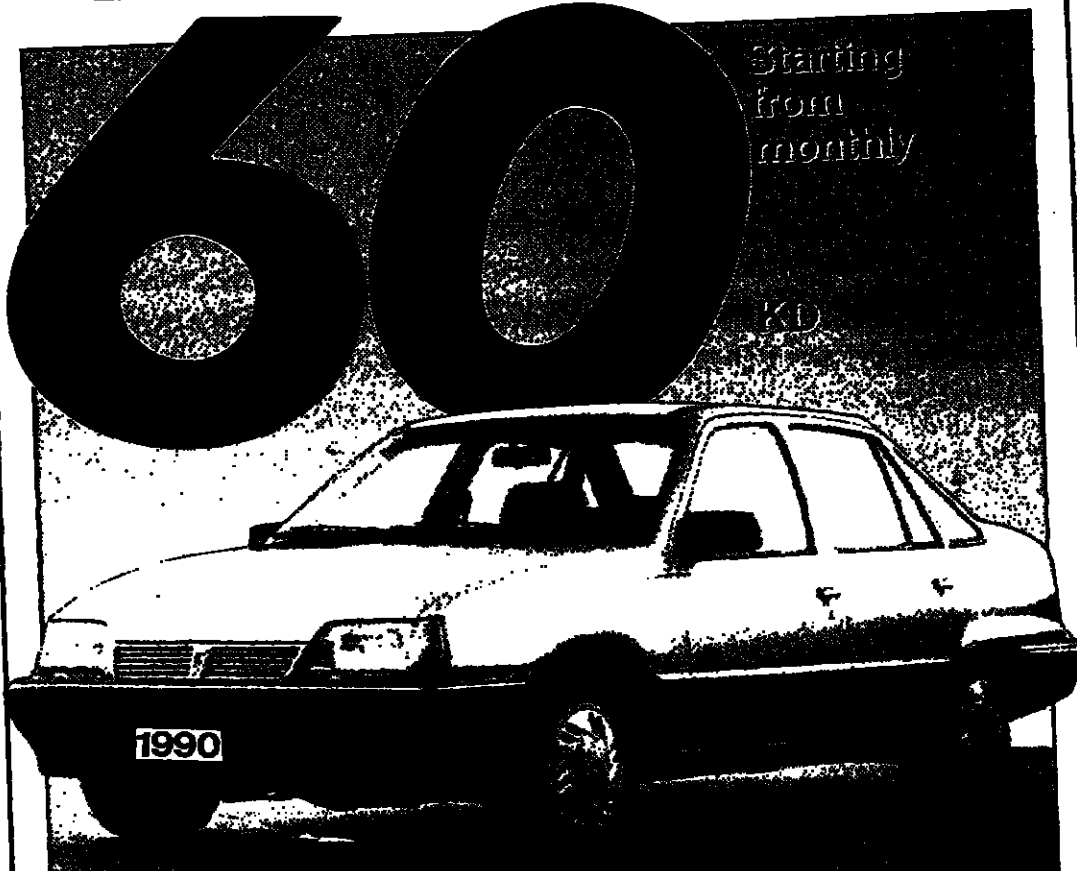
MANILA, June 20, (UPI): The Manila city council unanimously approved a bill banning smoking in public buildings and passenger buses, labelling cigarettes a health hazard and a nuisance.

The law passed yesterday will take effect one month after it is signed by Mayor Gemilano Lopez in order to allow time for a public information campaign, said Pete de Jesus, president of the 35-member council.

The ordinance bans smoking in offices, session halls, cinemas, auditoriums, bars, restaurants, cocktail lounges, factories, retail stores, school campuses, passenger vehicles and other locations. Owners of private businesses must provide smoking areas in their establishments, under the bill.

Violators will receive a \$14 fine or two days in prison.

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Pakistan lifts 24-day-old curfew in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 20, (Reuters): Pakistan said yesterday it was lifting a curfew imposed on its biggest city Karachi 24 days ago after riots in which more than 260 people were killed.

A government statement said the curfew would end from 6:00 am (0100 GMT) today in Karachi, capital of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province Sindh.

Authorities called out troops and imposed the curfew after ethnic riots in Karachi and the nearby town of Hyderabad which doctors said had claimed

over 260 lives since May 26.

A government official said the troops would remain in the city for the time being, patrolling streets and manning some 200 army pickets fitted with sub-machineguns.

A curfew on Hyderabad was lifted last week, although troops continued patrols there.

Leading activists of the rival groups which clashed in the riots, Muhajir immigrants from India and ethnic Sindhis, went into hiding after a government crackdown.

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INTERNATIONAL

'America is far too noisy': hearing experts

CHICAGO, June 20, (Reuters): America is far too noisy, and US hearing experts warned yesterday that even babies are victims of "insidious, permanent and irreparable" hearing loss.

More than one in 10, or 28 million Americans, suffer varying degrees of hearing loss caused by noise that starts in hospital maternity wards and continues to intrude throughout life at work, in the streets and at play, according to researchers from the US National Institutes of Health.

The report, a summary of findings from a conference on deafness held earlier this year, was published in this week's issue of the journal of the American Medical Association.

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SPICEWOOD, Texas: A slice of the West will become the south, at least for a time, for an upcoming Vanessa Redgrave movie.

The little town northwest of Austin is being transformed in a small southern town in the 1930s for filming of the movie *Balala of Sad Cafe*. Much of the town is owned by singer Willie Nelson.

Shooting is set to begin June 25 on the film, starring Redgrave and directed by Simon Callow, an actor who played Salieri in the London stage version of *Amadeus*.

The film company has put out a call trying to locate a full suite of Victorian furniture to lend authenticity to the film, according to Texas film commission officials.

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee: Bill Cosby, television's well-known dad, may be a ghost soon, but he was quite visible to tens of thousands of visitors at the Riverbend Festival on Father's Day Weekend.

Cosby, wearing a dad T-shirt saying "Ghost Dad" to promote an upcoming film by that name that he stars in, kept many of the 100,000 estimated party-goers spellbound during a 75-minute monologue Friday night, festival organisers said. The holiday of Father's Day was Sunday.

Part of his routine included asking the audience to ponder the philosophical question of why humans continue to care for their young when animals get rid of them after six months.

The star of *The Cosby Show* asked for only one thing - a chair with no arms to be placed centre stage, said Riverbend chief Bruce Storey.

The festival runs through June 24. (AP)

VEJEN, Denmark: Danish Mink Farmers have a new friend, Jutland furniture maker Verner Thams, who gets customers to sit on mink even if they don't wear it.

Thams is aiming at the Asian market for his idea, a mink-upholstered sofa and two armchairs costing just 675,000 crowns (\$105,000).

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Sutherland Singer pulls out of opera

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): Australian soprano Joan Sutherland has pulled out of a production of *Die Fledermaus* in London that was to have been her farewell to the opera and is to retire this year, the Royal Opera House said yesterday.

A statement from Sutherland's manager saying the 63-year-old prima donna had decided against taking the part of Rosalinde in the comic opera because she was afraid her performance would disappoint her fans, the opera house said.

The production of *"Die Fledermaus"*, which is to run for two months until January 1991, had been billed as Sutherland's final appearance, said a spokeswoman for the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

since November and I hope to sell 10 to 20 a year there," Thams said on Wednesday. He has also had inquiries from Thailand and the Middle East.

It takes about 100 mink skins to cover a sofa, so Thams' salesmen need to work hard to make a dent in the several million skins stockpiled by Danish mink farmers until prices recover from present record lows. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Ellis Island, site of the station through which millions of immigrants passed between 1892 and 1954, will reopen to the public Sept 10 after a six-year \$156 million restoration.

The island is in New York harbour, a few hundred yards (metres) from the Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, which announced the date Tuesday, said the reopening would be preceded by a Sept 9 dedication ceremony to which President George Bush has been invited.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida: The kid is 11 years old, 4 1/2 feet (1.4 metres) tall and weighs 57 pounds (26 kilograms). But Charlie Korman came close to stealing the show from his elders in the new *Dick Tracy* movie.

"Wasn't he great," exclaimed the kid's co-star and director, Warren Beatty, last week after the film had its premiere here.

Charlie's first movie role was as Jessica Lange's son in *Men Don't Leave*. Initially, he wasn't interested in the role offered by Beatty in the film based on the square-jawed comic strip character.

But Beatty insisted, and the sixth-grader from Minneapolis finally agreed, partly because "I hate to go to school."

"Now, Charlie considers himself, 'One Lucky Kid.'"

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Attempts to break record

The Hoverspeed Great Britain, the world's largest catamaran ferry, set sail from New York harbour on Tuesday to attempt to break the record for the fastest transatlantic crossing by a passenger vessel.

award for the highest average speed by a passenger vessel across the Atlantic - from the United States, which set the record in 1952.

Under cloudy skies, the ship set out from Ambrose Light, 12 miles (19 kms) from New York harbour, at 7:50 pm EDT (2330 GMT), heading for its finishing point Bishop Rock lighthouse off the southwest coast of England.

Sailing at an average speed of 37 knots, the Hoverspeed Great Britain hopes to complete the trip in three days and six hours, beating by more than four hours the 38-year-old record of three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes at an average speed of 35.9 knots set by the SS United States.

The crew hopes to reclaim the coveted Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband of the Atlantic - the prestigious maritime

(Reuters wirephoto)

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INTERNATIONAL

Panama deaths report revised

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): The Defence Department revised its figures yesterday on the number of US soldiers accidentally wounded by their comrades in the Panama invasion, saying 16 of the 310 servicemen wounded in action were hit by "friendly fire."

On Monday, the Defence Department released figures showing that two soldiers — and possibly three — of the 23 killed during the Dec 20 military operation had been killed in such a manner. As well, the department had originally said 19 of the 324 soldiers wounded in action had been hit accidentally by their comrades.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters that the department had refined the figures after an overnight study of the death reports. The review was prompted by a Newsweek magazine report that nine US soldiers had been killed by their comrades and that more than 60 per cent of the casualties had been caused by friendly fire.

In his first comment on the issue, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney lamented the deaths, saying such things will occur in complex, night military operations where high-tech weaponry is used.

"I wished it had not happened, on the other hand I don't think it detracts from the overall quality of the operation," he told reporters after a Pentagon briefing on the budget.

Williams, in his briefing, said that of the 23 killed in action, two Rangers were killed by friendly fire at Rio Hato "during an intense fire fight with the PDF (Panamanian Defence Force) near dawn."

He added that there was one other possible death due to friendly fire, and that it was under investigation.

"Of the 310 wounded in action, it now appears that 16 were wounded by friendly fire in several isolated incidents throughout Panama," Williams said.

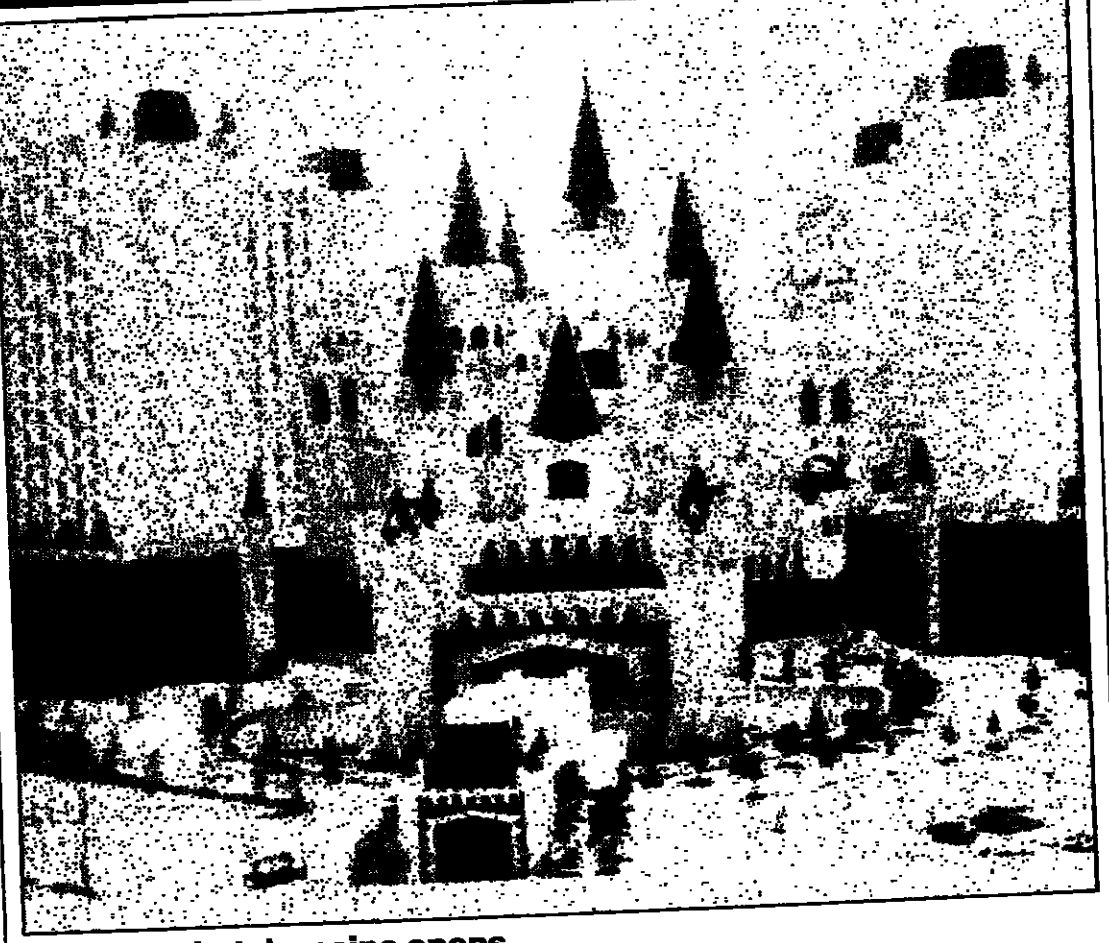
"Yesterday's report of 19 wounded in action included some accidental injuries that we have now determined were not caused by hostile fire," the spokesman said, adding that since the cases were being looked at very closely, the numbers could change again.

Williams added that another 21 wounded during an intense night fire fight near the Comandancia, the headquarters of Gen Manuel Noriega, "may be the result either of friendly fire from an AC-130 gun ship or PDF mortar fire. It is impossible to distinguish whether they were wounded by friendly fire or by enemy fire."

The report in the June 25 Newsweek issue quoted unidentified military officials as the source of its information.

Williams said confusion over the deaths could have arisen because Noriega's troops used US supplied bullets and weapons.

The United States invaded Panama on Dec 20 to dislodge the Noriega-controlled government.



Largest hotel, casino opens

The largest hotel and casino in the world opened on June 19. The Excalibur Hotel and Casino has the medieval theme featuring live jousting and minstrel singers, Merlin the Magician and dragons. The Excalibur employs over 4,000 people. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barry supplied cocaine: Lewis

Testimony in court

WASHINGTON, June 20, (AP): Convicted drug dealer Charles Lewis, testifying on the first day of Mayor Marion Barry's drug and perjury trial, said yesterday that Barry supplied cocaine that the two men used in the Virgin Islands.

Lewis said Barry used the cocaine with model Rasheeda Moore in June 1986 in a hotel room. "We were all standing in line. We were using straws," Lewis said.

Prosecutors opened the trial charging that the three-term mayor was "smoking crack (a crystallised form of cocaine) and using cocaine all over town for years."

Defence attorney R. Kenneth Mundy countered that Barry was a victim of entrapment and said the trial would reveal "the depths to which the government was willing to go and did go" to bring down the mayor of the nation's capital.

The two lawyers sparred before the jury while Barry watched intently from the defence table. He wiped his forehead when he heard assistant US attorney Richard Roberts say jurors would see a government videotape made the night of Barry's arrest showing the mayor "smoking crack... lighting with a cigarette light."

"Just like this," he added, extending his arms and inhaling deeply.

Barry has pleaded innocent to 10 misdemeanour cocaine possession charges, one misdemeanour cocaine conspiracy charge and three felony counts of lying to a grand jury about his alleged drug use.

"While the defendant was preaching 'down with dope' to the community, he was putting dope up his nose," Roberts told jurors in his opening statement.



Barry shown during trial

This case is about the other side, the secret side, of Marion Barry.

Mundy told the 12 jurors and six alternates, "this is a case about deals the government made with the devil. Approximately seven years ago, the government made a determination that it was going to get Mr Barry... and that it was prepared to go to any lengths."

Lewis, who pleaded guilty to cocaine conspiracy charges last November, testified he used the cocaine Barry supplied in the Virgin Islands. Lewis, a former city employee, testified Barry also smoked marijuana on a boat trip later that day.

Lewis, who has yet to be sentenced on drug charges in his native Virgin Islands, "was willing to put any music to any tune the government wanted to play," said Mundy.

A jury of five whites and 13 blacks was chosen Monday to hear the evidence in Barry's trial, which is moving into the full trial stage after plea bargaining discussions failed to produce any agreement.

Tapes of Florida massacre released

JACKSONVILLE, June 20, (AP): Police released dramatic tapes of terrified office workers pleading for help from police as a gunman roamed through the building and shots rang out in the background.

"We're being killed" whispered a General Motors Acceptance Corp. employee as James Edward "Pop" Pough methodically made his way through the auto loan office.

"He's killing everyone," another panicked caller whispered as the workers waited for police to arrive.

In the tape recordings, released yesterday of calls to the police emergency hot line, the callers' voices reflected the terror of the situation as the gunman fired under desks, killing eight and wounding five others before turning the gun on himself.

"He's still in there shooting... shooting everybody come on" implored Barry Kimbal, an employee who ran to a neighbouring business to call for help.

As police were dispatched, emergency operators asked workers for a description of the gunman, his shirt colour and what kind of car he was driving as rapid firing could be heard over the phone.

"All I know is he came in and started shooting," said another panicked voice.

Authorities said the 42-year-old Pough — who had a violent past, a failing marriage and an arsenal of deadly weapons — entered the office Monday morning, and blazed away with a clip-loaded .38-calibre carbine.

In just a few minutes, seven employees and a customer died; five other people were critically wounded.

The gunman then killed himself with a .38-calibre revolver.

Authorities could suggest no motive other than that Pough had a 1988 Grand Am repossessed by GMAC.

The families of the eight dead, still in shock, were planning funerals and mourning the loss of their loved ones.

Mayor Tommy Hazouri called the shootings "the darkest moment in Jacksonville history."

Police said Pough had shot and killed a man and a woman Sunday morning in a prostitution-related dispute. Police confirmed yesterday that he shot and wounded two teenagers about 10 minutes later.

Questions surfaced about Pough's background and how he could buy a handgun after pleading guilty to an aggravated assault charge in which he shot and killed another man in 1971.

International Aids conference opens

Taylor announces creation of fund

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20, (UPI): Organizers of the 6th international conference on Aids said they welcome protesters angry over US policy toward the deadly disease, but hope they will not disrupt the exchange of information on a malady that has killed more US citizens than wars in Korea and Vietnam combined.

About 500 demonstrators tied up downtown traffic yesterday with a noisy march the day before the conference was scheduled to open. They protested US immigration policies that deny entry to people carrying the Aids virus.

At least eight people were arrested, mostly for trespassing by jumping over police barricades at a federal building housing the offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Demonstrators, including a large contingent from the militant Aids coalition to unleash power, or act up, whistled, whooped and chanted slogans.

Demonstrators from San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Chicago later ran shouting through the conference hotel lobby, promising bigger protests as the scientific conference gets under way.

San Francisco police, criticised for overreacting in past demonstrations, have approached the Aids conference with new crowd control training that calls for a gentler approach to potentially explosive situations. They have provided Aids education classes for officers and assigned special "gay sensitive" officers, many of them homosexual, to the demonstration sites.

Co-ordinators of the conference said they supported the demonstrators' point of view on the immigration issue, but hoped to avoid huge protests that would disrupt the exchange of scientific information on the deadly disease.

But Kate Rafael, an act-up leader from San Francisco, said the government has been dragging its feet on many Aids issues, and "We're going to shut down this city this week."

Actress Elizabeth Taylor, out of the hospital only a few days after a six-week bout with pneumonia, "defied" her physicians' orders and attended the conference.

As chairwoman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), Taylor announced creation of a group's new international research fund in the event world. She said the fund would initially provide \$400,000 to finance partnerships between health agencies and local Aids groups.

"From tiny villages in Uganda to the teeming slums of Rio de Janeiro, the International Fund for Aids will soon sow the seeds of knowledge and hope, potentially saving thousands of lives in the process," Taylor said.

Meeting in the US city hardest hit by Aids, scientists said activists would be represented at the conference, which is designed to create "important interaction and dialogue" among some 10,000 researchers, health professionals, policy makers and drug company officials from 14 nations, including Eastern Europe and China.

Dana van Gorder, a conference co-ordinator, said the "politics of outrage" will be present at the four-day gathering. Van Gorder said those carrying the Aids virus "hope to use this conference to reach the hearts and minds of the medical community."

"They want to convince the medical community to join them in the areas of risk reduction, medical assistance, and outreach programmes," Van Gorder said.

Dr Paul Volberding, a leading Aids researcher at the University of California at San Francisco, which is hosting the conference, said there would be an important exchange of information on the research, treatments, and health care services that he hoped would not be disrupted by demonstrations.

"Our intent is to permit dialogue," said Volberding, the national co-ordinator of experiments with AZT, a leading Aids drug. "We hope the disruptions won't occur inside. That's why we've given space in the programme for other voices."

Leon McKusick, co-chairman of a task force that worked with the university to plan the conference, said 375 HIV-infected people will be allowed inside the Moscone Centre so Aids victims will have a voice in the proceedings.

He said at the last Aids conference in Montreal, the opening speakers could not be heard because of disruptions by activists.

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Medical file

Aids still spreading

Confounds efforts to contain it

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20, (Reuters): Aids, a scourge unknown a decade ago, is now the central focus of public health officials around the world, confounding efforts to contain it and frustrating researchers seeking a cure.

The disease is the subject of the sixth international Aids conference, which opens here today and is attracting some 14,000 researchers, care-givers, journalists and activists from seven dozen countries.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is caused by a virus known to scientists as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV. The predominant strain of the virus found in the United States and Europe is known as HIV-1, while the strain found most commonly in West Africa is called HIV-2.

The virus is not easily spread. Scientists say it can be transmitted only through sexual contact, the transfusion of infected blood products, the sharing of contaminated hypodermic needles and by an infected mother to her newborn infant before or during childbirth.

It is not spread through the shared use of household objects such as drinking glasses or toilet seats, coughs or sneezes, insect bites or contaminated food or water.

To prevent Aids transmission, health officials counsel sexual abstinence or the use of condoms to avoid exchange of bodily fluids, sterilisation of hypodermic syringes and screening of donated blood products and organs for Aids.

The disease's most insidious aspect is probably its ability to remain dormant in the body for long periods of time — often over a decade — after the initial infection. Thus a person unaware of the infection can pass the virus on to others.

Initial symptoms may include fatigue, fever, swollen lymph glands, thrush and a skin rash. Later the virus attacks and eventually destroys the body's health-fighting immune system, leaving the individual prey to a host of infections that are easily fought off by those with normal immunity to disease.

The most common of these are pneumocystis carinii, a form of pneumonia; Kaposi's sarcoma, a skin cancer; various fungal infections, and cytomegalovirus, a viral infection that can lead to blindness and infection of brain and lungs.

Other common symptoms include fevers, night sweats, weight loss, gastrointestinal problems and dementia, ranging from mild confusion to personality change and mental incapacity.

In an unprecedented global response to a public health crisis anti-Aids programmes have been set up in every single nation in the world. But public health officials say that even this has not been greatly successful in combating Aids.

For those already infected, the few drugs found so far to fight the virus and related infections are expensive and hard to obtain, a factor that threatens to drive a wedge between the industrialised nations — where there is enough money to treat at least some of the population — and the developing world, where even basic public health needs remain unmet.

By far the highest Aids caseload is in the United States, where 132,510 cases have been reported to public health authorities and 80,799 of these have already died, according to the Federal Centres for Disease Control.

Complicating prevention efforts are the disease's newly developing patterns. In the United States and Europe Aids has about peaked among gay males and is now spreading faster.

The disease is also reaching into new corners of the globe such as Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, West Africa, Thailand and the Soviet Union, according to WHO.

AZT still dominates: Scientists at the sixth international conference on Aids which begins today will hear progress reports on a flood of drugs under study for Aids and related infections, but one medication — AZT — continues to dominate the Aids landscape.

Made by London-based Wellcome Plc and marketed under the brand name Retrovir, the drug has been found in tests on humans to delay the onset of Aids in asymptomatic individuals, to delay its progression in people with active disease and to improve the quality of life of infected individuals. (Reuters)

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The development of AZT-resistant strains of the Aids virus in people suffering from the disease is far more common than previously thought, a top researcher reported.

The new findings, however, suggest that AZT's therapeutic benefits appear to taper off over time, and they mean scientists must intensify their search for drugs that can be used in combination with AZT to overcome the resistance problem. Dr Douglas Richman of the San Diego Medical Centre said. (Reuters)

Delay aids symptoms: A controversial drug appears to delay the onset of Aids in those infected with the disease-causing virus, scientists said yesterday, but federal regulators said there is not enough evidence to support the claim.

A study conducted in Denmark and Sweden found that only two of 429 people infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) who were given the drug zalcitabine daily showed Aids symptoms after 24 weeks, compared with 17 of 437 given a worthless substitute. (UPI)



Sentenced for killing own kids

Margitta (left) and Manfred Fiedler (right) seen in court June 18. The East German couple were jailed for 15 years each for killing five of their 10 children shortly after birth and burning four of the bodies in an oven at the father's workplace. Magdeburg district court convicted the couple who have five living sons on five counts of murder. Evidence in the three-week trial showed the couple murdered the babies at home between 1984 and 1988 by deliberately denying them care and nourishment. (Reuters wirephoto)

Somoza kin back in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, June 20, (AP): Former dictator Anastasio Somoza's family is free to return to Nicaragua under a recent amnesty declared by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, a government spokesman said.

A niece and nephew of Somoza, exiled since his overthrow in July 1979, said they were flying to Managua Saturday to become the first members of the ruling family to return to Managua.

Presidential spokesman Antonio Lacayo said the government "knew absolutely nothing" about the arrival of Luis and Julia Sevilla Somoza. But, he said, "all Nicaraguans can come back and begin a new life if they want to under the new law."

Chamorro's administration decreed an Amnesty on May 10 authorising "broad and unconditional amnesty for all the political and related common crimes committed by Nicaraguans citizens up to the date of publication of the current law."

A previous amnesty for political offenders declared by the Sandinistas only covered crimes committed after the fall of Somoza, leaving his family out in the cold.

Set up meeting with Bush

Castro asks Japan

TOKYO, June 20, (UPI): Cuban President Fidel Castro has asked Japan informally to arrange for his meeting with US President George Bush in Tokyo in November to discuss improvement of relations between the two countries, the national daily Asahi Shimbun reported today.

The daily, quoting unnamed sources in the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Castro asked Japan to act as an mediator, provided both leaders attend the enthronement of Emperor Akihito set for Nov 12.

The Bush administration has reacted passively to Castro's request mainly because of the mid-term election this fall, the daily said.

The United States and Cuba severed diplomatic relations in 1961, and bilateral relations worsened following the US invasion of Panama last December.

Government officials said Bush's attendance has not been decided yet.

"It (Castro's request) suggests a major change in the diplomatic stance of Cuba, which has been isolated in the international community along with North Korea, amid East-West détente."

BRASILIA, June 20, (AP): A secret security agency created by the military government still operates five years after the generals relinquished power to civilians, despite the new president's pledge to abolish it.

Brazilian spy agency still active despite pledge to abolish it

insecurity of the citizen," said Collor, who won Brazil's first direct election for president since 1960. He gave the agency a new name, the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs, and a new civilian director, but critics say it still collects information about citizens despite laws prohibiting it from doing so.

"In place of the SNI, the government created the embryo of a political police," said Walder de Góes, a political science professor at the University of Brasilia and an expert on the agency.

"The ideological archives were joined with financial information about individuals and their police records. Anywhere in the world, that's the beginning of a political police."

Luis Eduardo Greenhalgh, a lawyer who represented political prisoners during military rule,

said: "The SNI was not extinguished, just modified. Some of its agents were returned to their military units, but most are still spying."

"If the government needs dirt on somebody, the agency gets it. Everything continues the same."

In 1965, the SNI was created as a super-intelligence service to safeguard national security. It spied on citizens, tapped telephones and tailed alleged leftist opponents.

As repression increased in the 1960s and early 1970s, the agency ran covert operations and collected damaging information about enemies of the ruling generals.

Thousands of Brazilians lost their jobs, were imprisoned or had to flee the country because their names appeared on the SNI list.

The impunity enjoyed by SNI agents created disciplinary problems within the armed forces and Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva, who formed the agency and was its first director, said at one point, "I created a monster."

Brazil returned to civilian rule in 1985. But President Jose Sarney, chosen by an electoral college under military control, did not try to curb the armed forces' behind-the-scenes influence.

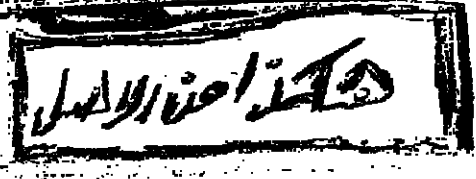
Collor promised a change. During the 1989 campaign, the 40-year-old presidential candidate referred to the agency's director as a "tin-pot general." The job was a cabinet-level post.

Pesticide kills stowaways

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, June 20, (AP): Eleven Dominican stowaways hiding in the cargo hold of a Puerto Rican ship were killed by a pesticide that was sprayed on the vessel's cargo of coconuts, officials say.

The Puerto Rican government yesterday sent condolences to the Dominican Republic over the deaths.

The 11 Dominicans, all of them men, were discovered Monday aboard the SS Hunacaco, owned by the Puerto Rico Maritime Shipping Co.



INTERNATIONAL

EEC nations sign accord

No border checks

SCHENGEN, Luxembourg, June 20. (AP) Five European nations signed an accord yesterday to end border checks for their nationals, accept joint visa and asylum policy and share data on illegal aliens, suspected criminals and missing persons.

The long-awaited accord between Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France and West Germany has hailed as an example for a no-border pact among all 12 European Economic Community nations.

"Our agreement is a model for the free movement of people in the community," Dutch Deputy Foreign Minister Piet Dankert told reporters on behalf of the signatory nations.

Yet he doubted all 12 EEC nations were ready to remove their borders after Dec 31, 1992 under the EEC's single market scheme. The 12 EEC states have not even found unanimity for an accord on the handling of asylum seekers in the EEC.

The five-nation pact will be extended to the soil of East Germany after it merges with the Federal Republic, making it the first international treaty viewing East and West Germany as a single entity.

Negotiations are to open this week with Italy, which wants to join the Schengen accord, named for this village on the Luxembourg-German-French border

where it was signed. The accord, in the works since 1985, must be ratified by the national parliaments to take effect. Ratification may take two years.

Under the accord, the five signatory nations will:

- Remove internal border checks for their citizens and legal residents and let legally admitted persons from outside the five nations move within their boundaries for three months without a visa.

- Apply a joint policy to prevent "asylum shopping" whereby refugees go from one nation to the next to get residency visas.

- Intensify co-operation between police and justice officials and allow police to chase suspected criminals across national boundaries.

- Simplify extradition procedures and harmonize gun-control legislation.

- Share information on people wanted or missing or who are considered dangerous. Such a databank will also keep tabs on such items as stolen cars and passports.

The Schengen accord primarily benefits passenger traffic. On road transport, the five EEC nations pledged to keep border checks "at the lowest possible level" by removing some of the red tape that hampers road transporters.

Vigil to call attention to plight of children

WASHINGTON, June 20. (AP) A coalition of volunteer organizations said yesterday it will simultaneously hold global candlelight vigils in 15 countries this fall to focus attention on the plight of children world-wide.

"Over 40,000 children are dying daily of malnutrition and preventable disease," said Senator Bill Bradley at a news conference to launch the effort.

"The nations of the world must act together to declare that children are a priority, that they have a right to learn and grow in peace and freedom," the New Jersey Democrat added.

The candlelight ceremonies are set to begin at sunset on Sept 23 in Australia with other countries joining in as twilight reaches their part of the world, ending in the United States in Hawaii.

The vigils are a prelude to the world summit on children to be held Sept 29-30 at the United Nations.

Nearly 15 million children under age 5 die each year, according to Unicef. Experts estimate 100 million children will die of mostly preventable causes in the next decade.

The summit will bring together heads of governments from around the world to develop solutions to improving child and maternal mortality, malnutrition, drinking water and waste disposal, low-birthweight, poverty, homelessness, education and children's protection.

The US organizations sponsoring the vigils include Africare, Care USA, the Children's Defence Fund, the Child Welfare League of America, End Hunger Network, Foster Parents Plan, The Hunger Project, The National Council for International Health, Results, Save the Chil-

dren and the US Committee for Unicef.

The coalition is urging world leaders to ratify the UN convention on the rights of the child approved last year by the general assembly.

The convention sets minimum standards for the well-being of children, provides protection from abuse and exploitation, guarantees certain inalienable rights and basic education. It would have the force of international law if ratified by 20 countries.



Royal Ascot Week

The Princess of Wales (right) is applauded by guests in the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot racetrack as she arrives with the Queen Mother in a horse-drawn carriage for the first day of Royal Ascot Week June 19. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pledge to save ozone shield

LONDON, June 20. (UPI) A conference on saving the ozone layer opened today with pledges that the 75 nations attending during the next week will finalise a crucial strategy to end production of man-made chemicals eroding the natural shield that protects life on our planet.

Coinciding with the start of the 10-day meeting was the release of a new analysis by British scientists, who detected an even higher rate of ozone depletion because of emissions of halons and chlorofluorocarbons, mostly used in aerosols and refrigerants.

Expected

The stratospheric ozone review group assessed ozone loss above Antarctica in 1989 to be the same as in 1987, belying optimistic assessments after more ozone appeared in 1988. It found a long-term decline in winter ozone levels in the Northern Hemisphere, and potential for substantial Arctic ozone loss.

The conference is attended by the 59 signatory nations of the 1988 Montreal protocol on ozone depletion and 16 non-signatory countries. It opened with pledges to achieve solid results during week-long working group talks, which will be followed by a three-day climatic gathering of environment ministers.

Evidence

"We are coming now to the most crucial part of the negotiations," said chairman Mostafa Tolba, the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. "What we want by next Tuesday is a completed package of all the ambitious goals of the (Montreal) protocol."

The conference is expected to result in a pledge to completely phase out CFCs by the year 2000, a tighter timetable than that initially envisaged at Montreal because of mounting evidence of ozone destruction.

Halons and CFCs are the main ingredients gradually destroying the ozone layer, a natural belt of gas between 20 and 30 kms above the Earth which blocks out harmful radiation. Scientists believe a 1 per cent reduction in ozone causes a 4 per cent increase in skin cancer.

The ozone issue has been unique in inspiring broad consensus from usually opposed nations, and observers believe a successful solution of the problem could serve as a template for international co-operation on the larger problem of global warming.

Ensure

"No country, no region, no group will ever be capable of solving any of these problems," Tolba said. "If failure is not an option, success is an imperative."

But the delegates must negotiate on numerous details of ending CFC production by creating a managerial framework to ensure that money donated is properly used, for example, in retrofitting a Soviet refrigerator factory.

New technology using alternative ozone-friendly chemicals is expensive, and the logistical problems of phasing out CFCs are also linked to broader issues of how obliged developed nations feel to assist the Third World.

Envisaged

Washington last week ended its solitary stance that the ozone fund should be financed by money diverted from other development programmes, and accepted that the ozone problem required a separate cash injection.

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Tax on Nobel prizes

Axe on income

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 20. (AP) Nobel prizes would be subjected to heavy Swedish taxes under a law proposed yesterday.

The bill also would impose normal income tax on all other scholarships and prizes, reducing their value by as much as half. A parliamentary commission presented the proposal to the Ministry of Finance. It will be circulated among interested parties outside government for consideration and comment.

The bill may undergo broad revision, and Nobel officials hoped foreign laureates would be excluded. "Of course we are worried," said Sture Allen, secretary of the Swedish Academy which chooses the winner of the Nobel prize for Literature.

"It is possible that the exception will be applied in this case, but we prefer that the proposal fails so there will be no need to make an exception," he told a news conference.

Swedish artists and writers, many of whom depend on public support, reacted with outrage. "Tax bureaucrats are declaring war against culture," said a statement issued by several artists' organisations.

The bill, part of sweeping tax reform due to take effect in 1991, would deduct an employers' fee of 30 per cent before the prize is awarded. For Swedes, the remainder of the prize would be counted as income and taxed at the normal rate, leaving the laureate with about 40 per cent of the award.

The 1990 Nobel prizes are worth 4 million kronor (\$660,000) each. The award is divided if there is more than one winner.

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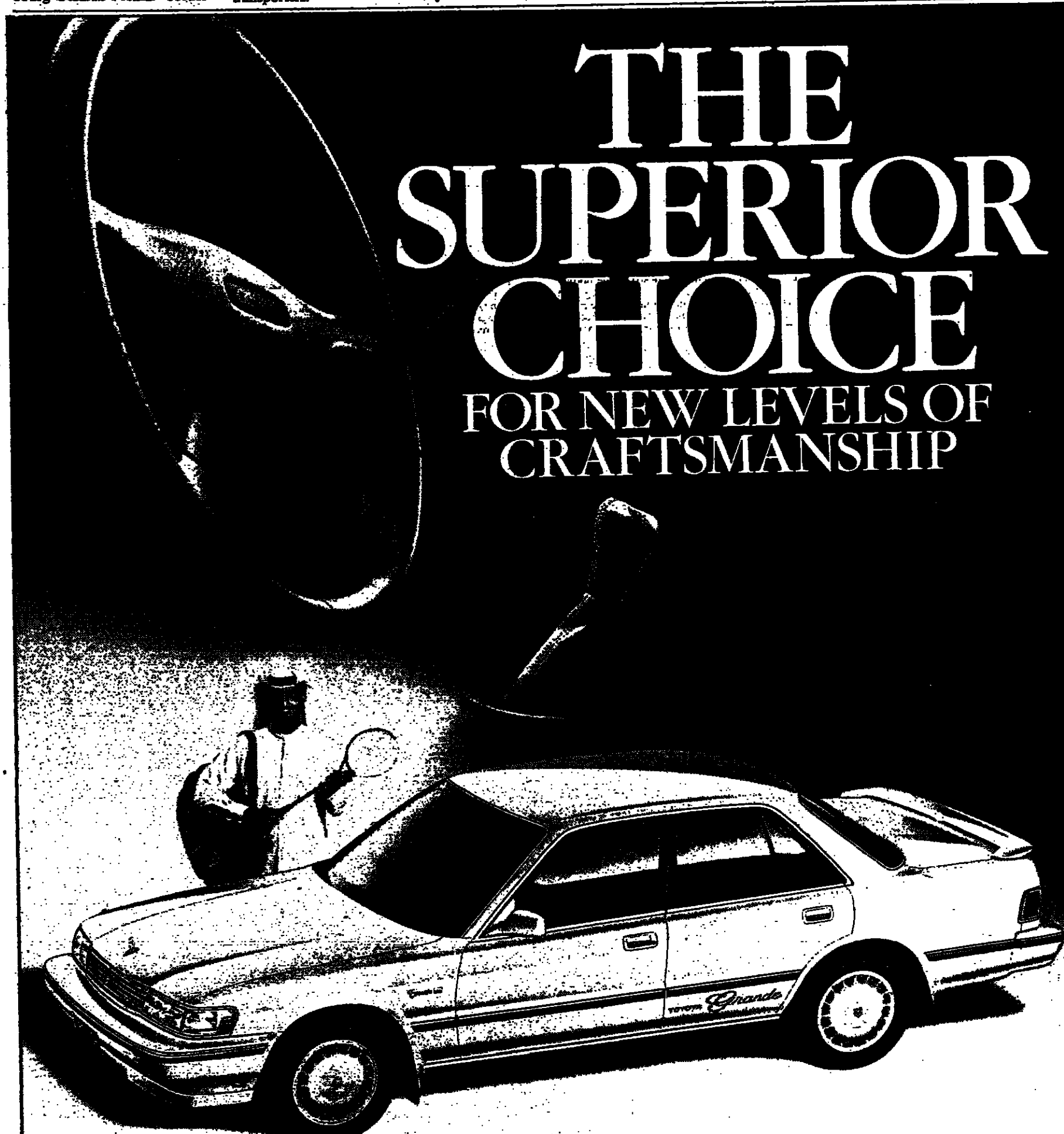
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France relaxes African loans

LA BAULE, France, June 20. (Reuters): France is cutting to five per cent the interest it charges on loans to the middle-income states of black Africa, President Francois Mitterrand announced today.

"France unilaterally is limiting to five per cent the interest rates on all public loans to the intermediate countries of sub-Saharan Africa," Mitterrand told African leaders at a Franco-African summit.

It was not immediately clear what kind of loans the French leader was referring to or what interest rates currently apply.

Middle-income states in Africa include Ivory Coast and Gabon, two countries hit by popular unrest because of austerity measures taken to compensate for low prices for commodity exports such as oil, cocoa and coffee.

All African states are being squeezed by the relatively low returns they get for raw material exports and the high cost of credit on commercial markets.

The subsequent distress caused to Africa, the poorest continent in the world, was expected to dominate the summit talks which groups former French colonies in Africa as well as some English-speaking countries attending as guests.

Mitterrand also announced that France would replace loans to the poorest states with outright aid.

The middle-income states of Ivory Coast, Gabon, Cameroon and Congo will be among the leading beneficiaries of the reduction in interest rates, regional experts said.

French Co-operation Ministry officials said the combined foreign debt of those four states was 110 billion French francs (\$19.6 billion), of which 58 billion francs (\$7.1 billion) was owed to France.

Only the government-to-government portion of their total debts to France — which the officials said totalled some 40 billion francs (\$7.1 billion) — is covered by Mitterrand's move.

France under Mitterrand's presidency has been a leading light in the international community to ease the debt problems of developing countries.

In his opening speech at the summit in this Atlantic resort, Mitterrand said France was effectively reducing interest rates by half.

Presidential advisers said that the average interest last year on French official credits to the middle-income countries was 10 per cent.

Mitterrand said he would press the rest of the group of seven most industrialised nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, Italy and Canada — to emulate his initiatives at their July 9-11 summit in Houston, Texas.

"I intend to ask my six partners at Houston to go further, to follow the decisions that France has just taken and also to extend the repayment timetable for the most indebted countries."

France announced in May 1989 that it was writing off a big chunk of its official credits to 35 of Africa's poorest states in a move which it was said at the time would cost some 16 billion francs (\$2.9 billion) at today's exchange rate.

Mitterrand said in future only outright aid should be given to this group, known as the least developed countries (LDCs). "Africa is suffering more from its economy than from its politics," Togo's President Gnassingbe Eyadema told Mitterrand.

"It is for the Africans to decide who rules them and how," Mitterrand said in an interview with the French daily Le Monde published yesterday, the first day of the meeting.

Mitterrand welcomed the 22 African presidents and a dozen other delegation heads for the annual get-together in the Atlantic resort of La Baule.

Chlamydia epidemic: Chlamydia, the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States, could be contributing to an "epidemic" of a serious pregnancy complication in which the fetus begins developing outside the womb, researchers said.

A new study found 306 women who had ectopic pregnancies — in which their fertilised eggs started developing outside the womb — were more than twice as likely as 266 women who had normal pregnancies to have had a prior chlamydial infection.

Most ectopic pregnancies occur in the fallopian tube, which carries the egg from the ovary to the uterus. Unless doctors intervene surgically, the tube can burst, frequently leading to serious medical complications. (UPI)

Hunt antiques takes in millions: Record bids pushed the take beyond expectations at an auction of coins and antiques collected by the outtime billionaire Hunt Brothers of Texas, who lost their fortune speculating in silver.

The total pre-sale estimate for the auction at Sotheby's was \$12 million, but that figure was quickly surpassed. The total reached 20 million.

Two silver Greek coins became the first and second most expensive ever sold at auction, and a Greek vase painted with a battle scene sold for a record \$1.76 million, Sotheby's said. (AP)

FBI officers' powers extended: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents — increasingly confronted by dangerous criminals — soon may have greater leeway in firing their weapons at suspects, according to new proposals backed by FBI director William Sessions.

Previously, members of the elite law enforcement bureau could shoot or use deadly force only to defend themselves or others. But new superiors want them to have the option to stop fleeing suspects believed to have caused death or injury. (Kuna)

Mapplethorpe obscenity case: A municipal court judge on Tuesday ordered a jury trial for Ohio museum and its director on obscenity charges that grew out of a touring exhibition of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe's controversial works.

Judge David Albano, who toured the exhibit himself at Cincinnati's contemporary arts museum before it closed last May 26, scheduled the trial to begin on September 24 on two misdemeanor obscenity charges. (Reuters)

Tyrannosaurus remains uncovered: The largest carnivore ever to roam the earth is emerging from the badlands of eastern Montana — after being buried for 65 million years.

A museum crew's careful digging has uncovered most of an intact skeleton of a tyrannosaurus rex, only the eighth ever found. The remains exposed so far include the skull, tail, pelvis area, arm and back.

The lower arm bones are the first ever found for any T-Rex. (AP)

Church files suit to get back art: A federal judge has ruled that representatives of a Lutheran church in East Germany must be allowed to inventory a cache of medieval artwork allegedly taken by a US army officer during World War II.

After hearing oral arguments on the telephone Monday, US District Judge Sidney A. Fitzwater also ruled that the artworks could not be moved from their present home in a bank in Whitewright, Texas.

Fitzwater's orders came in a lawsuit the Lutheran church in Quedlinburg, East Germany, filed Monday, demanding return of the artworks. (UPI)

Singer kin to sue for royalties: Hank Williams' long-lost daughter is delighted the US Supreme Court thinks she should have the chance to fight in court for royalties from some of her late father's country music hits.

The high court, without comment, on Monday let stand a federal appeals court ruling that Cathy Yvonne Stone, 37, is entitled to have her legal fight put before a jury.

"I feel wonderful," Ms Stone said in a telephone interview from her Washington home.

The court also rejected an appeal by country singer Hank Williams Jr. that sought to reverse an Alabama Supreme Court ruling declaring Ms Stone a legal heir to the elder Williams. (AP)

Cheney unhappy with jet progress: US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on Tuesday he was unhappy over development problems with the navy's planned A-12 attack jet, but that it was still a high-priority Pentagon programme.

Extradition
The Soviet embassy has demanded the return of a hijacker who forced a domestic Soviet flight carrying 60 people to land in Helsinki, Finnish officials said Wednesday.

Oleg Kuzlov, 20, (shown right) seized the twin-jet airliner on Tuesday during a flight from the Latvian capital of Riga to Murrenau and asked for political asylum after it landed, officials said.

All 55 passengers and five crew members returned to the Soviet Union on the twin-jet Tupolev 134 after being released unharmed.

Finnish Foreign Ministry spokesman Jaakko Blomberg said the Soviet extradition request "was in accordance with the Finnish-Soviet agreement to prevent hijacking."

"No reply will be given to Soviet authorities until the matter of his application for political asylum has been completely cleared up," Blomberg said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Envoy laundered drug money: The former High Commissioner of Malawi and his wife used their diplomatic immunity to help them launder profits from a drug trafficking operation masterminded by their son, a London court heard on Tuesday.

Soo Sobahia, 67, and his wife Muriel, 63, denied laundering 87,000 pounds sterling (\$150,000) for their son Nigel, who has been arrested in the United States for drug trafficking. (Reuters)

Renamo rebels accuse Malawi: Mozambique's Renamo rebels Tuesday accused Malawi's government of manipulating public opinion after it announced last week that the rebels had agreed to peace talks with Mozambique's government.

A statement said attempts to get the rebels to attend peace negotiations in Malawi, a country they have repeatedly rejected as a talks venue, were aimed at "making public opinion believe Renamo does not want peace." (AP)

Bush meets Nujoma: President George Bush Tuesday met with Namibian President Sam Nujoma, who said afterwards he was confident the United States would increase its assistance to his new independent nation.

Speaking after the two conferred briefly in the Oval office, Nujoma told reporters he had asked Bush to increase US aid to Namibia over a \$10 million grant already in the pipeline.

"Quite positive," he said of Bush's response to his request. "Yes, I hope so." (UPI)

Mulroney faces blame

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, elected on a vow to unify Canada, is facing increasing personal blame for a constitutional crisis threatening to break up the nation.

Opposition parties and the provinces have complained that Mulroney waited too long before calling an emergency meeting of political leaders to bring French-speaking Quebec into the constitution by next Saturday's deadline.

"Those who put us in this situation by rolling the dice a little too late are the ones who obviously have to now examine their conscience, in their own souls, what happened to this," Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon said this week.

Political leaders agreed a week ago to bring Quebec into the constitution with an accord empowering the province to guard its culture and language against assimilation into English-speaking Canada.

The so-called Meech Lake accord must still be ratified by the legislatures of Newfoundland and Manitoba by Saturday.

A maverick Manitoba Indian legislator, Elijah Harper, (shown above) has all but doomed the accord by blocking its introduction in his legislature because it does not address native concerns. (Reuters wirephoto)

New kid on pop chart Luciano Pavarotti

LONDON, June 20. (AP): Forget rap. Luciano Pavarotti is the new kid on the block of the British pop charts.

His rendition of "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's opera "Turandot" has jumped to No. 3 on the singles chart, due in large part to the daily play it receives as the theme for the BBC's World Cup soccer coverage.

The single's popularity propelled Pavarotti's album, "The Essential Pavarotti," to the top of the pop album list. Jessica Atkinson, a spokeswoman for Decca Records, said this is the first time a classical album has hit No. 1 on the pop album chart.

New SA paper launched: A newspaper rose in South Africa on Wednesday from the ashes of the legendary Rand Daily Mail, which died crusading against apartheid.

The new Daily Mail enjoys a more favourable political climate than its predecessor, as the white minority government of President F.W. de Klerk has severed opposition political activity and promised to demolish apartheid race laws.

But with the South African economy reeling under the combined effect of a crashing gold price and years of international sanctions, it enters a dangerous marketplace in competition with four other English-language dailies concentrated in the Johannesburg area. (Reuters)

Santos changes economic team: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, shaking up his government's economic team, has sworn in new ministers of finance and planning, and made several other changes, the official news agency Angop said on Tuesday.

The new appointments include both the governor and deputy governor of the war-ravaged African country's central bank, the Banco Nacional de Angola, Angop, monitored in Lisbon, said.

In a speech at the swearing-in ceremony on Monday, Dos Santos denounced official corruption and inefficiency. (Reuters)

Belgium won't lift sanctions: Belgium said on Tuesday it would not lift economic sanctions against Zaire despite the former Belgian colony's completion of an inquiry into an alleged massacre of students.

Zaire's parliament blamed regional officials on Monday for instigating the violence last month in Lubumbashi, the official Zaire news agency Azap said.

A parliamentary commission said armed students had killed at least 12 people on the night of May 11, but some witnesses have spoken of 100 or more deaths and blamed the elite personal guard of President Mobutu Sese Seko. (Reuters)

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"Quite positive," he said of Bush's response to his request. "Yes, I hope so." (UPI)

Scientists do with it at last

The world's most wanted number

NEWARK, New Jersey, June 20. (AP): It took 1,000 computers to do it, but researchers have broken down a 155-digit number into three numbers that cannot be further divided.

The scientists said their effort raises concerns about the safety of computer programmes used by banks and the military. But computer security experts disagreed.

Scientists at Bell Communications Research in Morris township said yesterday they came up with three factors of the number, dubbed "the world's most wanted number," after using about 1,000 computers during a five-week period. One of the factors is seven digits one 49 and the third is a 99-digit number.

Arjen Lenstra, a member of Bellcore's technical staff, worked with Mark Manasse, of Digital Equipment Corp. of California to break the number down. Lenstra says the effort shows that tampering with certain computer messages encoded in 150-digit numbers is possible.

"The fact that we are able to figure this number (shows) that others are less safe than previously thought," Lenstra said.

But the significance of the development for major institutions — such as banks and the military — that use large numbers to encode computer messages was downplayed by David Kahn, author of "The Codebreakers."

Kahn said that in most code systems both the sender and receiver of information have the same system and key.

In the widely used cryptographic system the research applies to, the encoding and decoding keys differ.

The keys are related mathematically through a number that is usually the product of two large prime numbers. The product is in the open, but the primes are kept secret and the system depends for its security on the difficulty of factoring large numbers, according to Kahn.

The lab's breaking down of the 155-digit number indicates that the second system can be factored down more quickly than previously believed, Kahn said.

Cornerstone of S. Africa apartheid repealed

JOHANNESBURG, June 20. (AP): Parliament yesterday repealed a major apartheid law used for decades to segregate public facilities ranging from restaurants to libraries to buses.

The repeal of the Separate Amenities Act was the latest in a series of reforms by President F.W. de Klerk since he came to power last year.

The act, passed in 1953, gave governments and privately owned enterprises the right to reserve facilities for whites such as parks, hotels, swimming pools, toilets and recreation centres.

Tony Leon, an anti-apartheid member of parliament who voted to scrap the measure, said 37 years of segregated facilities had given the country a "disfigured human landscape."

Jan Hoon of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party opposed repeal of the measure, saying it was another step toward black majority rule.

In major cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, public facilities have been integrated for years. But in hundreds of smaller towns and villages there have been no public facilities for blacks or vastly inferior segregated ones.

The Separate Amenities Act does not affect neighbourhoods and schools, the main institutions still segregated under the government's apartheid laws.

At parliament in Cape Town, De Klerk's ruling National Party and the anti-apartheid Democratic Party outvoted the Conservative Party 185-38 to scrap the law. The mixed-race and Indian chambers of parliament voted unanimously for repeal.

The country's 23 million blacks have no voice in national affairs.

De Klerk in February promised to scrap the Separate Amenities Act. He says he wants to end racial discrimination and negotiate a new constitution that will bring blacks into the national government.

However, he opposes a one-man, one-vote, majority-rule system, saying it would replace white domination with black domination. The president envisions a mechanism that would give whites veto power on major policy decisions.

De Klerk has promised that next year the government will amend the Group Areas Act that segregates neighbourhoods by race. He opposes full repeal of the measure and appears to favour a system that would allow some neighbourhoods to be integrated and others to remain segregated.

The government has given no indication that it plans to integrate public schools, although many private schools are multiracial.

Since taking office last September, De Klerk has legalised dozens of black opposition groups, permitted peaceful protests, freed scores of political prisoners, suspended the death penalty, and ended segregation on beaches and in hospitals.

A man identifying himself as the companion of a slain African National Congress (ANC) dissident said yesterday the killing was carried out by two gunmen from an ANC office.

A telephone caller who said he was Nicholas Dymos described to Reuters the last moments of Sipho Phungula who was shot dead last Wednesday after visiting with Dymos, an ANC office in the non-white independent homeland Transkei.

"I could hear Sipho screaming," he said. "That was the last I heard" — as five shots cracked out from a machine pistol.

Dymos's account tallied with that given earlier by South African intelligence sources. They said they believed the caller was genuine.



A Liberian woman carries a basket on her head June 17 as she passes the burnt-out remains of the fisherman's village of Buchanan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Atrocities in Liberia

US urges Doe Liberia deal

MONROVIA, June 20. (AP): David Johny has witnessed so many atrocities in Liberia's war — including seeing the bullet-riddled bodies of family members — that his eyes are blank and his face expressionless as he recounts the horrors.

His tragedy is one of thousands in a 23-week war whose chief victims are civilians being killed by both sides because of their tribal affiliations.

The nightmare for Johny, 18, began two weeks ago when rebels attacked the village near the Bong iron ore mine where he attended boarding school.

"They start killing the soldier people there, just spraying them with their guns. In one group they gunned, I saw at least 20 soldiers die," the seventh-grader said in an interview at a church mission in Monrovia, where he has been given shelter.

"Then they surrounded the compound for Mandingos and Krahn and just started cutting the people's throats with the knives from their guns."

Johny said he and a school friend who watched the killings were terrified, though they belong to the Gio tribe of many of the rebels. The rebels have been slaughtering civilians of President Samuel Doe's Krahn tribe, and Mandingos, whom the rebels accuse of enriching themselves during Doe's 10-year rule.

There are no reports of rebels killing Gio or Mano people, who in turn have been massacred by government soldiers because many support the guerrillas.

Johny said he and his friend fled into the forest and hid there for two days, living on nuts and leaves before working their way 30 miles (48 kilometres) south to Grimes Farm, a village near the town of Kakata where his parents lived.

They spent the night with Johny's father, who is a subsistence farmer and retired rubber plantation worker, and his mother and two sisters.

The next morning, June 9, the two friends were out picking pine nuts for the family when they heard gunfire, Johny said.

"We waited until the shooting stopped then tried to creep into the village through the bushes. But the soldiers spied us and fired at us, touching me with a bullet," he said, displaying a graze on his hip.

"My friend hauled me by the hand and dragged me into the forest, and we hid there for two days in fear."

When they crept out and went back to the family hut, Johny discovered the bodies of his father and two sisters. His mother was missing.

The two friends spent another two days working their way through the bush to the village of Cowway where Johny's young-

US urges Doe Liberia deal

WASHINGTON, June 20. (Reuters): The United States is urging Liberian President Samuel Doe to negotiate with rebels to avoid a bloody battle for Monrovia, a US official told Congress yesterday.

"There are 200,000 people there," Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen said. "A fight for Monrovia would be a great tragedy."

Cohen told a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs subcommittee that Doe's forces had dwindled to about 1,000. "If we go by past performance, they are not likely to be able to defend Monrovia."

Charles Taylor, leader of the national Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels, has told US officials he also wants a settlement to avoid fighting in the Liberian capital but will not budge from his demand that Doe resign.

The US official said he urged Doe in a telephone call this week to aid the peace talks by agreeing to elections next January. Doe told him elections could not be scheduled earlier than the following October under Liberia's constitution.

At the same time, US officials told Taylor he would receive no US aid if he takes power through atrocities or fails to move towards free elections and democratic government.

Cohen also told the committee there was evidence 50 of Taylor's followers had been trained in Libya. But he said he believed Libya was unlikely to exert much influence on Liberia if Taylor took power.

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"My friend hauled me by the hand and dragged me into the forest, and we hid there for two days in fear."

When they crept out and went back to the family hut, Johny discovered the bodies of his father and two sisters. His mother was missing.

The two friends spent another two days working their way through the bush to the village of Cowway where Johny's young-

ger brother, Joseph, 15, was staying. But before they got there the village was attacked.

Joseph picked up the story. "Men with guns came shooting. They killed many people and hurt others. I don't know what happened to the woman I was staying with."

Joseph said the attackers wore uniforms, but did not know whether they were rebels or government soldiers. "Adults who came from the same village said only Gios lived there and that the killers were Doe's soldiers."

Joseph said he walked for almost three days until he got to Monrovia, where he sought shelter at Don Bosse polytechnic one of six church missions sheltering Mano and Gio people fearing attacks by soldiers.

Curtain calls for Prince Edward

Quits Lloyd Webber's theatre group

LONDON, June 20. (Reuters): Britain's Prince Edward said yesterday he was lowering the curtain on his career with his composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's theatre company to go into the business for himself.

Queen Elizabeth's youngest son joined Lloyd Webber's Really Useful group as a production assistant after he dropped out of the Royal Marines in 1987.

Theatre sources said the 26-year-old prince and five other Really Useful colleagues plan to leave at the end of July to set up their own theatrical company but no details were disclosed.

Prince Edward said in a statement issued by Buckingham Palace he was grateful to Lloyd Webber and the Really Useful group for support and encouragement and the chance to work in the theatre professionally.

"I hope to use the experience to progress further into production and explore new areas," his statement said.

Since he joined Lloyd Webber, the theatre-made prince has worked on hit productions such as "Cats," "Aspects of Love" and "Starlight Express."

One of Prince Edward's five colleagues, Harry Dagnall, said: "We are sorry to be leaving but are looking forward to new challenges in the future."

Earlier this month British press reports said there was a question mark over Prince Edward's future with the Really Useful group after director Biddy Hayward, who is believed to have hired the prince, left the company.

Buckingham Palace said the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have given Prince Edward their backing. A palace spokesman said: "The Queen and Prince Philip are aware of the prince's present decision and support him in it."

Until he found his niche in the world of the theatre, Prince Edward was often criticised by the British tabloid press, which compared him unfavourably with his elder brothers Charles and Andrew who better fitted the popular image of a royal prince.

Last weekend the British pro-monarchy Sunday Express newspaper said the Queen has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to find formal jobs for Edward and the Duchess of York, wife of naval aviator Prince Andrew.

It quoted a member of the Queen's Privy Council, an advisory group of elder statesmen, as saying she "firmly believes that it would be helpful if the younger royals... could be involved in work based on the principle of service and responsibility."

Mitterrand rejects calls to ban France's right-wing National Front

PARIS, June 20. (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand rejected calls to ban France's anti-immigrant National Front and lashed out at politicians who blame him for the rise of Europe's largest extreme right-wing party.

In a wide-ranging interview yesterday with the daily Le Monde, Mitterrand said existing laws were strong enough to prevent what he termed the "extremist union."

He was asked whether he

favoured outlawing the front, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, which is widely accused of fomenting racial violence by exploiting fears about France's Muslim immigrants of North African origin.

"That is not the way to cure the sickness," he replied.

The best way to combat Le Pen, Mitterrand said, was to create jobs, improve housing and enhance the quality of life for people on low incomes.

"Since they (the front) are playing on the

nerves and the fears of the French, let us reply with calm, firmness and conviction," he said.

Since founding the party in 1974, Le Pen has built it into a formidable political movement which now has the support of about 15 per cent of the electorate, according to some opinion polls.

The front has pretensions to displace the established conservative parties as the main opposition to the governing socialists.

In the interview, Mitterrand hit out at opposition politicians who have charged that he deliberately fostered the front by changing the electoral law in 1986. The new proportional system, later revoked, helped small parties like the front at the expense of the main centre-right parties, the RPR and UDF.

"For them, words have lost their meaning and they have to fall back on insults. Later, when we have the time, we shall pity them," Mitterrand said.

S. Korea warned of North sabotage

SEOUL, June 20. (AP) A self-confessed North Korean agent convicted of bombing a South Korean airliner in 1987 warned today that the communist North may commit more sabotage against its southern rival.

"North Korea, hard pressed, could commit more extreme actions like the bombing of KAL (Korean Air) 858," Kim Hyon-Hui told foreign reporters.

It was Ms Kim's second public appearance since the South Korean government pardoned her and made her a free citizen on April 12. About a month later, she met Korean reporters.

The 27-year-old North Korean agent looked composed and smiled occasionally as she answered questions during the news conference arranged by the government at a plush hotel.

Ms Kim and another North Korean were among the passengers on the KAL flight from Baghdad, Iraq, to Seoul on Nov. 29, 1987. The couple got off the flight at Abu Dhabi after leaving a time-bomb on the plane.

The plane disappeared near Burma a few hours after leaving Abu Dhabi. There were no survivors among 115 people on board.

From Abu Dhabi, the couple went to Bahrain, where they were stopped by airport officials. When questioned by Bahrain officials, they swallowed cyanide. The man died but Ms Kim survived and was extradited to Seoul.

She told a television news conference in Seoul that she was ordered to blow up the plane to score foreign athletes and officials away from the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. North Korea denied involvement.

Ms Kim was found guilty by a Seoul district court and sentenced to death last summer. The sentence was confirmed through the Supreme Court. On April 12, the government pardoned her, on the grounds that she was duped by North Korea and had repented.

Ms Kim said she was thankful for the pardon, but added she still felt "unforgivably guilty for the suspicious crime that claimed 115 innocent lives."

She said there could be more saboteurs like her in North Korea who would impulsively carry out anti-South Korea orders. She said North Korea is such a closed society that its 20 million people know virtually no other leader than Kim Il Sung, who has ruled the communist state since 1945.

"In the North, there are too many things which do not fit common sense. The bombing of KAL 858 is just one of them. I think there could be more KAL 858s and even a war," she said.

French set new spelling rules to rectify absurd errors

PARIS, June 20. (AP) The arbiters of the French language, always working to persuade the world their language is perfect, made a few corrections yesterday that will force citizens to relearn how to spell.

The high council of the French language said it had made "certain rectifications of absurdities... uncertainties... and anomalies" that "troubled the experts themselves."

The council said its 15 pages of spelling changes, accepted by Premier Michel Rocard, are less numerous than those made in the 19th century.

"It was never a question that the government legislate in such matters. The language belongs to those who use it," Rocard said. "But it is up to the government... to favour that usage which appears most satisfactory."

Rocard said he would ask National Education Minister Lionel Jospin to ensure that the new rules are taught in all schools by next year. He called on Francophone Minister Alain Decaux to meet with dictionary specialists, publishing houses, the press and others dealing with the written word to find the best way to bring the changes into normal usage.

The changes are grouped in five categories. Hyphenation, accent marks, plural forms of compound words, past participles of reflexive verbs, and anomalies.

The hyphen, much used in French, is going out of style, according to the sages, who are all but discarding it. Even the hyphen previously used in English words like "cow-boy," "strip-tease" and "week-end" will disappear.

There will be fewer circumflexes - the little hat-shaped marks above vowels, which have no impact on pronunciation - in the new French. The "accent grave" - the left to right slash above certain vowels - will be "gen-

eralised," removing the many exceptions by which it is applied.

More drastic changes do away with the feminine "e" or plural "s" when according past participles with reflexive verbs - but in certain cases only. And the second half of compound words, when plural, will always end in an "s," while the first half will lose its "s" - if it had one.

The Academie Française, whose 40 "immortals" are the ultimate arbiters of the French language, approved the changes, along with the councils of the French language of the French communities of Belgium and Quebec.

The French have long treated their language with reverence, and successive governments have tried to stamp out Anglicisms and other impurities, sometimes resorting to fines for offenders.



Two explosions rocked the US aircraft carrier Midway after fire broke out aboard the flagship of the US Seventh Fleet during sea exercises, injuring some crewmen, the US Navy said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Debate reopens

Who after Suharto

JAKARTA, June 20. (Reuters) Indonesia's armed forces, whose support is considered vital to the government, have reopened a debate on the future of President Suharto, in office since 1967, saying for the first time it has other candidates in mind.

The armed forces, known as Abri, will support 69-year-old Suharto if he chooses to run for a sixth term in 1992, but has alternative candidates in mind if he does not, a senior officer said in an interview published today.

"If Suharto is still strong, then go ahead. We will support him," armed forces chief of staff for socio-political affairs Harsudiono Hartas said in an interview with editor magazine.

"But we're ready (with other candidates)," Hartas said. "The important thing is we have our own convictions. We need someone who is at least as able as Suharto and then some."

He refused to give names, but said there were people in both civilian and military life who met the criteria.

"We don't want any yes-men," he said.

Suharto touched off a furious debate about who might succeed him by saying in his autobiography early last year that his current term might be his last.

Speculation cooled after six months when Suharto said he would "clobber" anyone who opposed him unconstitutionally. Analysts said this was a sign he wanted to hold onto power.

The question of his successor became all but taboo.

"Logically, he should step down now while he still has the power to manage the succession," an ex-cabinet minister said.

"But it is the royal mentality. Never in Javanese history has a king stepped down and said to his son 'you carry on'."

US ship rocked by blasts, 17 hurt

TOKYO, June 20. (AP) Two explosions rocked the US aircraft carrier Midway at sea off Japan today, injuring 17 crew members and leaving one missing, the navy said.

At least seven of the injured were seriously hurt, said petty officer 2nd class Frank Mowry of the public affairs office at the US navy base at Yokosuka, near Tokyo.

A fire that broke out at the time of the first explosion had been put out and the 51,000-ton ship was steaming under its own power about 125 miles (200 kilometres) northwest of the US Navy base at Yokosuka, near Tokyo, the navy said.

It said the ship would not return tonight to Yokosuka, its home port, and a decision would be made tomorrow on whether it needed to come in.

Mowry said the fire broke out in a parts storeroom four decks below the flight deck of the 979-foot (299-metre)-long carrier, and was confined to the storeroom. He had no information on what caused the fire and explosions or how long the fire burned. But he said that 11-12 hours after the fire broke out, firefighters were moving into the storeroom to extinguish it.

Among the injured, he said, five were flown to Yokosuka. One was in critical condition, two in very serious condition, one in guarded condition and one in stable condition, he added.

Another four, who were seriously injured, were taken by helicopter to the US air base at Yokota, West of Japan, and then to two separate Japanese hospitals, Mowry said.

He had no immediate information on the other seven injured crew members.

The ship was carrying 4,500 people, including officers and aviation crews, the navy said.

A navy statement said a fire and explosion erupted at 12.23 pm (0323 GMT), about half an hour after smoke had been reported. Firefighters were called, and second explosion occurred about an hour after the first, it added.



Italians are so football crazy even the Franciscan monks of Cagliari are allowed to stay up late to watch the World Cup. But as the streets of the Sardinian capital erupted in a cacophony of cheers and car horns after Italy's 2-0 win over Czechoslovakia on Tuesday, the young monks were heading for their beds.

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A United Arab Emirates supporter in typical dress cheers his team during their World Cup game against Yugoslavia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cheers to UAE

Complains of literary indigestion

Bernard Pivot is retiring

PARIS, June 20. (Reuters) Complaining of literary indigestion, Bernard Pivot, host of the long-running television book show "Apostrophes", is retiring, much to the dismay of readers across France.

"Our cultural life is about to be amputated," Bertrand Poirot-Delpech, a member of the elite Academie Française, wrote in the daily Le Monde. "Our weekly date with books is going."

Pivot's decision to wind up the programme next Friday has distressed six million viewers and forced him to defend his decision.

"I'm sick of reading, reading and reading," Pivot said. "I'd like to go to the cinema, I'd like to travel. Fifteen years of nothing but books is

a long time."

For many in France, Friday nights will never be the same.

A bushy-browed journalist, Pivot, 55, had a flare for using simple words to sum up even the most difficult works. It made him an idol of bookworms and the epitome of the enlightened Frenchman.

Swivelling and nudging his half-moon spectacles into place, he chaired debates between some of the world's greatest names in literature, linguistics and philosophy without a hint of intellectual snobbery.

Book-lovers, writers and publishers the world over envied the popularity of the programme that drew viewers away from US

soap operas and ensured the survival of that once favourite pastime - reading.

"I tried to bring books to the people, to make them understand a bookshop was not a temple," Pivot said. "I think the show was a success because of my frank and everyday manner."

Saying he was tired of reading 10 hours a day, Pivot denied he was an intellectual and said he would prefer to dwell on soccer, food and wine.

Pivot devoted his one-hour show to interviews with novelists such as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Vladimir Nabokov, Marguerite Yourcenar and Georges Simenon.



Two farm-bred crocodiles bask in anticipation of their evening meal. The 1,600 reptiles at the north Sumatran farm gobble down half a tonne of fresh chickens daily. (Reuters)

Crocs illegal trade thrives

Reptiles eating habits make feathers fly

MEDAN, Indonesia, June 20. (Reuters) Feathers fly, guts spill out and the afternoon air fills with the sounds of snapping, ripping and chomping as crocodiles devour half a tonne of freshly killed chickens.

In a house next to the stinking pits full of thrashing reptiles, Lo Kie Yoe nurses a washing-up bowl full of needle-toothed babies, the latest additions to his north Sumatran crocodile farm.

"It's crazy. Here they all are eating up 200,000 rupiah (\$10) a day, twice that in the wet season. I'm running out of space, and I can't sell a single one," Lo complains.

Strict export controls try to stamp out a thriving illegal trade in Indonesian crocodile skins and Lo, one of a handful of ranchers operating outside the jungle province of Irian Jaya, 3,000 miles (5,000 km) to the east, has yet to get an export licence.

Some in the industry say that is because a small group in Irian Jaya has the lucrative trade firmly in its grip.

Lo himself offers no explanation other than a shrugged "that's life."

The farm began 30 years ago with 12 squiggling newly hatched salt-water crocodiles trapped locally. Those have now grown into 10-foot (three metre) monsters with skins like armour plate, not the stuff of elegant footwear.

"They can be valuable too, though. There's this fad for big items, suitcases, golf bags," said an industry source.

And the old-timers have bred and bred and bred. Now comes for 1,600 reptiles, the younger of which compete with his wife and children for space in the

house.

Clearly, trapping crocodiles in the wild and selling their hides for \$15 or 20 a belly inch, the widest part, is more economical than keeping them well-fed in specially built pits for five years until they are big enough to slay.

"But there are hardly any left in the wild around here. The smugglers can't come up with more than 150 a year," Lo said.

In Irian Jaya, with its vast mangrove swamps and virtually untouched inland lakes, there are still lots of crocodiles around and the potential for poachers is greater.

A Food and Agriculture Organisation project there is trying to stem the flow by teaching local people to limit hunting to avoid wiping out the crocodiles and with them a valuable source of income.

An international agreement on wildlife trade allows Indonesia to export 5,000 salt-water crocodiles a year, 3,000 of them from the wild.

There is no quota for freshwater crocs, but the industry estimates 20,000 left the country legally last year and perhaps as many again found their way out illegally.

Indonesia, angered by Singapore's refusal to recognise the agreement covering trade in crocodiles, has stopped exporting wildlife products to its neighbour but ecologists say many Indonesian skins still find their way there.

"In the last month alone Indonesian customs agents have discovered nearly 3,000 crocodile, iguana and snake hides masquerading as textile exports to Singapore," one said.

160 die in Cambodia fightings

BANGKOK, June 20. (UPI) Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked two provincial capitals, including Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city, in fighting over the weekend that reportedly left more than 160 troops dead on both sides, official radios said today.

The Khmer Rouge radio said the three-pronged attack on Battambang, 160 miles (250 km) northwest of Phnom Penh, killed 43 government soldiers Friday and Saturday.

It also reported that resistance troops belonging to the allied group loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk captured the province capital of Kompong Thom, about 100 miles (160 km) north of Phnom Penh, on Sunday.

The radio said the guerrillas killed 67 government troops in the fighting at Kompong Thom and destroyed the provincial army headquarters.

It said government forces reinforced by 300 Vietnamese soldiers retook the town using 20 Soviet-supplied tanks.

Government radio acknowledged the attack, but said 56 of the resistance troops were killed before fleeing the town.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Sofia opposition reaffirms refusal: Opposition leaders on Tuesday reaffirmed their refusal to join a government with the socialist following the governing party's election triumph in Bulgaria's free balloting.

The Socialists, formerly the communists, became the only remnant of an Eastern Europe Communist Party to win free elections after four decades of unchallenged rule.

President Petar Mladenov appealed Tuesday to all parties to leave their political differences behind, reiterating his desire to see a "competent" government supported by the entire country, the state BTA news agency reported. (AP)

Parliament to elect president: Parliament voted Tuesday to have the country's president elected by the legislature rather than by popular vote, and to extend the term of office from four to five years.

In a referendum last year, Hungarians voted against choosing a president by direct vote. Arpad Gombos, a writer and former political prisoner, was chosen acting president in March and is considered likely to retain the post.

But deputies who favour a direct vote have collected enough signatures on a petition to force another referendum on the issue. (AP)

Poles to exhume WW II dead: Poland asked the Soviet Union on Tuesday for permission to take part in exhuming the bodies of Polish officers massacred by the Soviet secret police during World War II, the PAP news agency reported.

The Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note to the Soviet embassy requesting that Polish Red Cross experts be allowed to join in the "exhumation and identification work," the government-run news agency said.

The request followed the disclosure of the probable burial site of 6,200 Polish officers who were held in a prison camp at Ostaszkov, 200 kilometres (120 miles) northwest of Moscow. (AP)

Call to boost UK science budget: The "brain drain" of top scientists leaving Britain will become a flood unless the government boosts the science budget, researchers warned in London Wednesday.

Two groups, save British Science and British Scientists Abroad, said a barrage of official reports showed science funding was "grossly inadequate." Meanwhile, the study highlighted that the shortage of skilled scientific manpower threatens Britain's ability to compete successfully in the international bio-technology industry. (Kuna)

Bulgarians probe umbrella murder: Bulgarian officials have met with the Scotland Yard detective investigating the 1978 killing of a Bulgarian exile who was stabbed with a poisoned umbrella in London, Scotland Yard said Wednesday.

Police inspector Pamet Spasov and Boyko Botev, an official in the criminal department of the Bulgarian militia, met on Thursday and Monday with Det. Chief Supt Derek Willison, a Scotland Yard spokesman said, requesting anonymity.

He said the Bulgarians did not bring any new information, but will examine Scotland Yard's data "and contact us if they feel there is any further information we could follow up on." (AP)

3 IRA men held in Chaa: Dutch police said Tuesday they had rounded up an entire Irish Republican Army cell and were hoping for new clues in last month's killing of two Australian tourists.

Three alleged IRA members were arrested in Chaa, Netherlands and one in Belgium in a three-day manhunt involving 135 heavily armed officers with helicopters, dogs and heat-seeking equipment. (AP)

Call to stem coronary fatalities: The British government was facing calls for more efforts to stem the tide of deaths from heart disease, after disturbing new figures on the country's biggest killer, it was reported Wednesday.

The statistics, released in a report from the health education authority, show a total of 180,000 coronary fatalities a year, with up to three times more in the north than in the south.

The report produced by the Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, is the most detailed geographical analysis of deaths in Britain. (Kuna)

Honecker denies sheltering: Disgraced former East German communist leader Erich Honecker on Wednesday denied having given shelter to West German urban guerrillas sought for murder and bombings.

In a rare statement issued through his lawyer, Honecker, 77, said he learned through the media that eight suspected members of the Red Army Faction (RAF) had been living in East Germany, protected by the former Stasi security police.

The eight, hunted by Bonn for more than a decade on suspicion of killing top businessmen, bankers and civil servants and attacking US troops, have been arrested in the last two weeks in East Germany. (Reuters)

Pleas to stop 'get-well cards': Despite appeals for it to stop, 10-year-old Craig Shergold receives hundreds of get-well cards daily from strangers trying to help him win a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Craig, who suffers from a rare form of brain cancer, broke the record months ago, but the cards keep coming. More than 16 million have arrived.

"We don't want any more cards because it looks as though we're taking cards for no reason," Craig's mother, Marion, said from the family home in Carlisle, south London. (AP)

Contract killing: A convicted underworld hitman was jailed Wednesday until at least the year 2014 for a bungled contract killing in which he shot the wrong man.

Justice Barry Beach, in imposing the stiffest sentence possible, said Roy Anthony Pollitt is a truly evil man who committed a loathsome crime.

"You have demonstrated you are a person without pity and are quite incapable of remorse," the judge said.

Pollitt, 38, was convicted earlier this month of the murder of Lindsay Simpson on Sept 18, 1984. He pleaded not guilty, still maintains his innocence and is believed to be mounting an appeal to the full supreme court against both conviction and sentence. (AP)

Music festival: More than 700 performers, conductors and composers from 23 nations will gather in a northern Japan park next week to launch what Japan hopes will become a major annual music festival.

Conductors Leonard Bernstein and Michael Tilson Thomas are artistic directors of the new Pacific music festival, a three-week concert, study and discussion session inspired by festivals at Tanglewood in the United States and Schleswig-Holstein in West Germany.

The festival opens next Tuesday on an outdoor stage set up in a natural amphitheater to accommodate an audience of 5,000 near Sapporo, capital of the northern main island of Hokkaido. (AP)

Military training: Beijing University students are marching off to military camps and Maoist people's militias are filing past reviewing stands in signs of China's increasing militarism.

The Beijing Daily said more than 1,000 first-year students from People's University, dressed in green



Planes washing machine

A computerized automatic washing machine for jumbo jet planes said to be the world's first, makes its debut at Tokyo's Narita Airport June 20, surrounding an aircraft with its 16 robot units. Jointly developed by Japan Airlines and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, the \$13 million US washing machine can be adjusted to wash Boeing 747s DC-10s and 767s. (Reuters wirephoto)

Open for business

Class brothel

MELBOURNE, Australia, June 20, (AP): A multi-million-dollar brothel aimed at attracting businessmen and other big spenders opened for business today in a building once owned by a church.

Top of the town, the largest legal brothel in Victoria state, sits between the World Trade Centre and the nightclub strip of King's Street. It's the kind of respectable location that its owners hope will draw a respectable clientele.

The owners, Tunstun Pty. Ltd., spent 6.5 million dollars (\$5 million) converting the dilapidated building formerly owned by the Greek Orthodox Church into a four-storey bordello.

The building includes a crystal chandelier, a billiards table, red-carpeted and other accoutrements designed to make it look like a men's club. There are exits on all floors for clients afraid of bumping into fellow executives.

The eventual centerpiece, on its way from the United States at a cost of 300,000 dollars (\$234,000), will be a glass elevator that will be bathed by a fountain and laser show.

While arguing for its location in a neighbourhood zoned for residential buildings, part-owner and managing director Andrew Hewinson told the city council: "You've got to have one somewhere, you can't just hide under the blankets."

He said families from Ireland, Britain, France, Italy, the United States and New Zealand were trying to adopt Romanian children.

"It is terrible that so many of our children are in this limbo," he said. "The law should be changed to take away the right of a mother to control the life of a child she might not have seen since birth."

Health Ministry officials say there are 15,000 children under three years of age in state homes throughout Romania.

The Red Cross says that there are another 40,000, aged up to six to those above six are unclear.

"Our children are disadvantaged right from the start. Only one per cent of them will ever get to university, compared to 10 per cent for those who have a normal upbringing," Ursuleanu said.

Barry Childs, of the British-based Romanian orphanage trust, told Reuters in Bucharest that the number of abandoned children and orphans in Romania was gradually declining.

"One orphanage in Bucharest has closed and another one is going that way."

"Part of this improvement is because more are being adopted and part because birth control and abortion are now available," he said.

The trust has four teams of volunteers working in Romanian orphanages and three more on the way.

"Nine hundred people in the UK put in applications to come here. Things are better now, there is no malnutrition for instance," Childs said.

Soviet alarm at Chernobyl kids

BRUSSELS, June 20, (Reuters): Children living in the fallout zone from the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl four years ago are in desperate need of help, a senior Soviet official said.

The horrifying long-term effects of the disaster had become apparent only with time, said Victor Borovikov, permanent representative of the Republic of Byelorussia to international organizations in Vienna.

There were some 600,000 children under the age of 14 in the area, he said. The incidence of cancers, leukaemia and thyroid, skin and heart diseases among them was alarming as a result of the disaster in which a nuclear power plant exploded.

"It's in the interests of all of mankind to cope with this problem together. We're appealing for the first time for international help," Borovikov told a news conference.

"At first, the authorities wanted to pay people to stay. Now people see how their children are suffering, they're demanding relocation," he said.

Orang-utan smuggled: Ralfone, a 5-year-old orang-utan who escaped from a crate in Paris three years ago and led authorities to a dozen other smuggled primates, is returning to the Malaysian island of Borneo.

The reddish ape was handed to Malaysia's Science, Technology and Environment Minister, Stephen Yong on Tuesday in a brief ceremony witnessed by five Association of Southeast Asian Nations environment ministers who had just ended a regional conference in Kuala Lumpur. (AP)

Typhoon kills 15: At least 15 people were killed and 19 injured when a typhoon struck the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, the official China Daily said on Wednesday.

Typhoon Gordon also destroyed 296 houses, damaged 24 bridges and flooded wide areas of farmland on Monday, the report said.

Among the casualties, 10 people were killed and four injured in the coastal town of Shanwei.

The provincial capital of Canton was hit by strong wind and rain, but no deaths or injuries were reported. (AP)

Iliescu is formally declared president

Western nations to withhold aid for months

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 20, (AP): Ion Iliescu, whose leadership has been tarnished by violent attacks on opponents, took the oath of office as president today, pledging to uphold "fundamental human rights and freedoms."

Iliescu, 60, was formally declared president by Alexandru Birladeanu, chairman of the senate, the higher chamber of parliament. Birladeanu, an economist by profession, was a senior Communist Party official who, like Iliescu, fell into disfavour with former communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu over economic issues and was pensioned off.

Iliescu was a high-ranking communist official in the 1960s. The United States sent no envoy to the ceremony in a show of displeasure over two days of government-condoned violence by coal miners, who attacked suspected Iliescu opponents last week.

Canada and the nations of the 12-nation European Economic Community sent ambassadors. But several countries have suspended all but humanitarian aid to show their disapproval, and several high-ranking emissaries repeated their countries' criticism of Iliescu's appeal that brought the miners to Bucharest June 14.

"There is no difference in policy between the EEC and the United States," said British ambassador Michael Atkinson, when asked by a reporter why the Common Market had sent representatives. "There's just a difference in tactics."

Iliescu won May 20 elections by a landslide.

"I swear faithfulness to the Romanian people and to their ideals of freedom and prosperity," Iliescu told parliament and foreign diplomats crowded into the Athenaeum concert hall in downtown Bucharest.

"I swear to observe the country's laws, to defend democracy (and) the fundamental human rights and freedoms, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our homeland," he added.

In his first act as president, he appointed Petre Roman as premier. Roman, 44, a former engineering professor at Bucharest's Polytechnic Institute, had served as interim premier since December.

The presidential inauguration had been originally scheduled last week. But it was delayed by the miners' unrest, which followed a police crackdown on a 53-day anti-communist demonstration in Bucharest.

Meanwhile, official British sources said today that Western countries will withhold economic aid from Romania for several months, until President Iliescu's government provides evidence of its commitment to democracy.

Romania had "dropped off the caravan" of East European countries evolving towards Western-style democracy as a result of Iliescu's brutal suppression of anti-government protests last week, one source said.

European Economic Community foreign ministers on Monday postponed the signing of a trade and co-operation agreement with Bucharest, and decided not to invite Romanian officials to a meeting next month of 24 Western countries coordinating aid for Eastern Europe.

Although they did not say how long Romania would remain in quarantine, the sources expected it to last several months.

They said no conditions had been set for restoring the promise of aid, but that Western countries would want to see clear signs that the National Salvation Front government was committed to genuine democratic reform.

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Valeriu, 54, whose remarks were translated by a fellow-Romanian, said he was NSF party leader for Bucharest.

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The film also has unflattering portrayals of



Iliescu (centre) and Premier Roman wave to cheering supporters in Bucharest June 20 at the end of Iliescu's swearing in ceremony. (Reuters wirephoto)

Struggling for power

WARSAW, June 20, (Reuters): Lech Walesa, struggling for power with his old Solidarity comrades, said today that circumstances would force him to become Poland's president against his will.

"Today, when we are changing the system, we need a president with an axe: Determined, sharp, straightforward, who doesn't hinder democracy but immediately fills the gaps," he told the Solidarity daily Gazeta Wyborcza.

The Solidarity leader, who has criticised the pace of reform, said Poland's president should wield extensive powers including the ability to rule by decree until Parliament had time to debate and pass necessary legislation.

"I would spare Poland half its losses if I had such powers," he said. "I don't want to be president. I will have to be president."

Walesa, increasingly at odds with the government, said he would keep waging "war at the top" to guarantee genuine political pluralism.

He conceded he might not win, but said he was fighting to prevent a Solidarity political monopoly from replacing the communist government overthrown last year.

"I am scared stiff of a monopoly... I'm afraid of being thrown in jail again, or more likely that my children may be jailed, because that's the way every monopoly ends," he said.

ANKARA, Turkey, June 20, (AP): Arguments about water are complicating relations with Arab neighbours that Turkey spent a quarter-century building.

A conflict over the waters of the Euphrates river has soured relations with Syria and Iraq. Reports that Turkey planned to sell water to Israel have angered the Arab world generally.

Libya refuses to pay \$250 million it owes Turkish construction companies, citing increased friendliness between Turkey and Israel, a diplomatic source said privately.

Economists and scientists say rapidly growing populations in the Middle East could cause a disastrous water shortage.

Turkey has plenty of water, much of it running unharnessed into the surrounding seas.

It averted one dispute over the precious resource by backing off a proposed project with Medusa Inc. of Canada for moving water from the Manavgat River in southern Turkey to other countries, government and company officials said.

Medusa has developed a technology for transporting water in huge, balloon-like plastic containers pulled by ships.

Italy showed interest in using the method to transport water to the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, and Israel also was looking into it, the officials said.

Turkish officials described the project, requiring an investment of about \$200 million, as a private venture with no political dimension. They said private firms would buy and ship the water for other countries.

Arab nations apparently did not accept that explanation, which ignored the fact that the Turkish government would be selling the water, and Turkey did not go through with the deal.

Medusa, worried about possible terrorist action, also was said to be having second thoughts.

Foreign Minister Ali Bozer said in a recent statement that "there is no project to sell water to Israel."

He also said Turkey had not received a positive reply to a proposal to provide "friendly Arab countries" with water.

His reference was to the "peace pipeline" proposal put forth several years ago by Turgut Ozal, then premier.

Under it, a 1,500-mile (2,400-kms) pipeline would carry water from the Seyhan and Cyhan rivers in the south to the Arabian peninsula. The project would require an investment of \$21 billion.

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Turkey blocked most of the river's flow in January to raise the water level in the reservoir of the Ataturk Dam, being built as the centerpiece of a huge irrigation and power project in southeastern Turkey.

Syria and Iraq protested the action, which demonstrated Turkey's stranglehold on the vital waters.

Iran to boost food yield

TEHRAN, June 20, (AP): The government, alarmed by a population explosion that threatens to outstrip resources, is driving to boost food production and curb the runaway birth rate. But it faces an uphill struggle.

Thirty years ago Iran was a food exporter. Now it has to spend \$2.4 billion a year on food imports. That's one-third of its total import bill.

Food subsidies cost another \$1.75 billion a year, straining an economy that is in poor shape after a decade of mismanagement and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Officials say more than 10 million tonnes staples will have to be imported every year.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government has allocated \$64 billion for agricultural development in its five-year plan — one-third invested by the government and the rest by the private sector.

However, the government's main priority for revitalising the economy is to strengthen industry.

"The outlook for agriculture will be closely tied to the government's success in raising oil revenues and reforming economic policy in the new five-year plan," Keith McLachlan of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies wrote in the Middle East Economic Digest.

Unstable there are clear signs that the state is willing to invest substantial funds in agriculture, and private enterprise has confidence in the sector's medium-term stability, neither sustained prosperity nor a sorry needed rise in food self-sufficiency look at all likely in the immediate future.

Iran's population, about 55 million, is swelling at the alarming rate of 3.9 per cent a year, one of the highest in the world. By comparison, India's population is growing at 2.2 per cent, and China's is increasing at only 1.4 per cent.

If Iran's current birth rate continues unchecked, the population will reach 140 million in 20 years.

Iranian officials contend that attempts to curb the birth rate so far have been half-hearted, partly because many Shiite Muslim clergy men maintain that birth control is proscribed by Islam.

The mullahs argue that a large population will help Iran become the leader of the Islamic world and ensure its power and prosperity.

The Iran Statistics Centre reported in March that there are 138 million acres (56 million hectares) of arable land, but only 39 million acres (17 million hectares) are currently being cultivated.

The late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi launched agricultural reforms before he was toppled in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. But agricultural production was falling behind population growth long before the monarch's ouster.

That trend has accelerated since 1979, despite erratic attempts to boost food production.

"Under the Shah, agricultural production did increase, but so did the population. But since the revolution there has been a definite downward trend in agricultural production," said a United Nations official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The question is not whether agriculture can be boosted, but if it can race to keep up with the population," he observed.

The statistics centre noted that wheat, barely and rice production have increased considerably since 1982, but still lag behind population growth.

But agricultural production last year was severely hit by drought. Output fell by an estimated 15-20 per cent over 1988 and this year's production is also likely to be affected.

A lot of farmland fell into disuse during the war, when funds were channelled to the military. An estimated 750,000 people a year move from the countryside to the cities.

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Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and former Ugandan president Idi Amin.

The film is currently showing in three movie theatres in Istanbul and one in Ankara.

In Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned Turkish Charge d'Affaires Murat Ozdas and protested against the screening of the film in Turkey, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Influx of Soviet Jews produces housing crunch

Israelis live in tents in protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (AP) The influx of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews has produced a housing crunch that is driving up rents, forcing some longtime residents into the streets.

These homeless Israelis have pitched tents in front of the Parliament in occupied Jerusalem and across from municipal buildings in remote suburban towns. Their plight has gripped a country that had been swept by immigration euphoria.

Officials warn of a "social explosion" directed at the immigrants unless the housing crisis is resolved soon.

Yesterday, the story of Avi Golan, a 40-year old father of four who set his tent in front of the municipality in Kiryat Bialik, led Israel television's popular evening newscast.

Kiryat Bialik, near the northern port city of Haifa, took in 450 immigrant

families in recent months. Golan, an invalid, has to leave his apartment by this weekend. The rent doubled and he can no longer afford it.

"I tried to find another apartment and they demanded \$400 a month, to be paid a year in advance. I cannot pay in advance. I can hardly pay every month," Golan said.

"I don't know what to do, shall I laugh or cry? Really I don't know.... I don't know how to raise my kids. Even if I would want to steal I cannot, they would catch me immediately," he said, hugging two of his children in front of a small, blue tent.

Golan is not alone.

The mayor, Dani Zack, says he knows of five or six other homeless families who have apparently lost all hope. "To my sorrow, there is almost no solution to this in Kiryat Bialik. It has to be a government solution," he said.

Uri Gordon, head of the absorption department at the Jewish agency that helps resettle immigrants, warned yesterday that the crisis may lead to a "social explosion" between the Israelis and new immigrants.

Rents have skyrocketed throughout Israel with the arrival of the Soviet wave, which totaled 13,000 in 1989 and more than 43,000 so far this year. It may exceed 150,000 by the end of 1990.

Housing Ministry officials say Israel's estimated 30,000 vacant rental units will be filled in four months, and three months later, Israel would exhaust its supply of alternate housing such as holiday flats, army camps and off-season hotel rooms.

The ministry has called for 60,000 new housing starts this year. So far, ground has been broken for just 7,000 new units.

Plans to import prefabricated houses have run into trouble following objections

from local companies.

In addition, the union of construction workers yesterday decided to launch a struggle against the import of prefabricated houses. They are backed by the powerful Histadrut, Israel's largest trade unions federation.

The arrival of immigrants, who get a government housing subsidy of some \$237 per month, led to a housing shortage in modestly priced units. The landlords raised the rents for cheapest apartments to match the subsidy, causing an overall housing price inflation.

Many Israelis say they cannot compete with the Soviets, who also get their subsidy a full year in advance, and are thus forced to leave their homes. The average monthly after-tax income for an Israeli family of four is 1,160.

'Warning of war an Arab device'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (Reuters) Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Jews of the diaspora today that warnings of war were an Arab ruse to sabotage Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

His accusation came in a speech to a group of Israel's foreign Jewish backers, the World Zionist Organization (WZO), who are divided over whether Shamir should allow the immigrants to settle on occupied Arab land.

Moments before Shamir, a champion of Jewish settlement in occupied territory, addressed the WZO General Council, its members argued heatedly over the issue.

Some of the 150 delegates yelled insults at each other during a vote on a draft resolution which in effect called for no Soviet Jews to be settled in the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip.

The vote had to be postponed so Shamir could speak.

Shamir described the issue of settlement in the occupied territories as a smokescreen.

"He said recent threats against the Jewish state by Iraq and Syria had created a dangerous atmosphere.

"Several regimes in this part of the world have created artificial tension to show the world that immigration to Israel will create the danger of war," he said.

"The opposition of the Arab states is to immigration itself and the strengthening of the state of Israel," he said. "Israel has no policy of directing immigrants to the occupied territories."

So far only a few hundred Soviet Jews have settled in the West Bank. The government says they went there by choice and not at its direction.

Israel expects about 250,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year alone. An Arab summit last month called for action to stop any being settled in the occupied territories, captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 war.

Arab states fear the arriving Jews will displace Palestinians from their homeland.



Palestinian children carry cans filled with water after residents of the Shuafat refugee camp broke into the water main following a dispute with Jerusalem city authorities over outstanding water bills. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israel violates human rights

Arabs and Jews not treated equally

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (AP) Israel persists in violating human rights of Palestinians in the occupied lands by imposing collective punishment such as house demolitions and long-term curfews, an Israeli watchdog group charged today.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) also said in its annual report that both in the occupied lands and Israel, Arabs and Jews were not treated equally before the law.

ACRI chairman Benjamin Zur added that he feared Israelis were becoming increasingly indifferent to human rights violations against Arabs.

"Large parts of the population are showing very low sensitivity to the issue of human rights. That, as far as they are concerned, the inequality before the law that is being practiced between Arabs and Jews, is justified. I haven't heard a public outcry here about that," Zur said.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Kurd rebels kill 45: Kurdish rebels claim to have killed 45 Iranian soldiers in clashes in Iranian Kurdistan last week, according to reports Wednesday.

A spokesman of the Iraqi-based Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party said in Baghdad that the troops were killed in two separate rebel attacks in northwestern Iran.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said that 18 Kurdish guerrillas were killed and 10 others captured during clashes in different locations than those reported by the Hamza. (AP)

Trabzon and Giresun, 1,100 kms (680 miles) east of Istanbul on the Black Sea coast.

Earlier, the radio had reported eight people missing.

The rains, which began several days ago and subsided Wednesday, snapped power lines and interrupted communications, the radio said.

Rescue teams have been sent to help villagers in stranded areas, it added. (AP)

Ethiopian troops killed: The rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) said on Tuesday its forces had killed 21,802 government troops in battles over the last three weeks north of Addis Ababa.

The rebel radio, monitored in Nairobi, said another 10,000 troops were captured in a series of victories between May 25 and June 15 southwest of Dessie, 300 km (186 miles) north of the Ethiopian capital. It said nothing about rebel casualties.

There was no independent confirmation of the rebel claims. The Ethiopian government made no comment on them but diplomat in Addis Ababa said there had been recent reports of fierce fighting near Dessie. (Reuters)

Hang Demjanjuk demand: An Israeli prosecutor asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to hang convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk, saying he was not worthy of staying alive "even one day" after his crimes.

"The state today is doing only one thing — by imposing a death sentence it is riding itself and the human race of the person it determines is not worthy of staying alive even one day after the deeds he perpetrated at Treblinka (death camp)," lawyer Michael Shaked said.

The bespectacled, bald Demjanjuk, 70, sat stony-faced through the lawyer's impassioned appeal to the five-judge panel. (Reuters)

Sudanese rebels killed: The Sudanese army said it had killed 410 rebels and wounded 1,100 in an attack in southern Sudan this week, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported on Tuesday.

MENA quoted a Sudanese military communiqué issued on Monday as saying the army inflicted the casualties in an attack on Nanyang camp in Upper Nile province.

It quoted the province's military commander as telling Al Qawsat Al Musallah newspaper that the army was preparing to recapture the provincial town of Malat and was capable of wiping out all resistance in the province by the end of the year. (Reuters)

Scores killed in Iran jail riot: Anti-government rebels said on Wednesday that scores of prisoners were massacred by Iranian security forces during a riot at a jail in northeast Iran.

The Baghdad-based Mujahideen Khalq said Tehran had fabricated a report that nine inmates were killed during a jailbreak from Mashad prison on Friday night.

The Iranian news agency, Irna, said on Tuesday night the prisoners were killed in a three-hour clash with warders after failed door traffickers started a fire in a bid to escape.

Militia kill PLO gunman: Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen killed a Palestinian gunman and captured one on Tuesday in a firefight east of the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, Israeli security sources said.

They said the gunman — members of PLO head Yasser Arafat's Fatah group — might have been involved in fighting between Palestinian factions in the area and were not necessarily trying to reach Israel.

The sources said the Fatah squad fired automatic weapons, Katyusha rockets and rocket-propelled grenades at fighters of the Israeli-trained South Lebanon Army militia near Kfar Falout. The SLA returned fire, killing one attacker and wounding one. (Reuters)

Rains havoc in Turkey: Torrential rains and landslides have claimed at least nine lives and caused extensive damage in northeastern Turkey, the state radio reported Wednesday.

The broadcast also said at least six people were missing in towns and villages in an area between

Bush turns back on PLO

(Continued from Page 1)

Hilal is deputy to Yasser Arafat, the head of the PLO's information department who has been leading the delegation to the talks in Tunis with US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau Jr.

Hilal noted that the report from Washington was circulated just after Shamir had urged the Bush administration in a speech today to cut the PLO out of the Middle East peace process if it expected Israeli co-operation.

Hilal said: "This can be judged only as an unfriendly and colonial... it's a blow to the peace process and a provocation to Arab states."

He said the PLO executive committee would decide on the "appropriate response," adding that he expected it to call for implementation of relevant resolutions adopted at an Arab summit conference in Baghdad last month.

Among the resolutions was one that called for re-evaluating political and economic relations of Arab states with other countries on the basis of policy toward the Palestinian problem.

"I expect the Arabs would be called to apply economic sanctions against the United States. I expect the uprising in the occupied territories to escalate," he said in response to a question.

Asked if the suspension of the dialogue would prompt the PLO to reconsider its peace overtures, he said: "We continue to abide by the peace initiative as decided by the Palestine National Council."

Islamists gaining influence in Jordan: Arab leaders worried

AMMAN, June 20. (AP) Attacks by Sunni Muslim zealots on banks, breweries and night clubs underline the growing influence of Islamic fundamentalists in one of the most secular Arab states.

In May, an Islamic court convicted journalist Ibrahim Abu Naab, 59, of apostasy, or abandoning Islam, and ruled that he be divorced from his wife and separated from his children.

Abdullah Shamaileh, prosecutor-general of the Islamic court, urged the court to permit "the shedding of his blood." Anyone who kills an apostate is immune from prosecution under Islamic law.

Jordan's civil law does not grant immunity, however, and the civil appeals court probably will overrule the Islamic tribunal's verdict.

The "crime" Abu Naab committed was attending

a meeting in Britain of the breakaway Qudiani sect, which is outlawed in many Muslim states, and allegedly converting from the mainstream Sunni sect.

His case reflects the increasing strength of fundamentalists, who became the largest legislative bloc after the November parliamentary elections. Jordan's first 22 years. The Muslim Brotherhood won 22 of the 80 seats and Islamic independents got 12.

They have pledged to work for strict application of Sharia, the Islamic religious law, but have said they will work within the constitution and not challenge King Hussein.

Arab leaders worry about increasing fundamentalism among the world's 1 billion Muslims. Recent

moves toward greater democracy in some Arab states are largely an outgrowth of that concern.

Khalil Abdulrahman Khalifa, a 28-year-old engineer, said: "The Islamic tide is growing these days because the people have lost trust in their governments, which have not moved so far to solve the central Arab issue, the Palestinian problem."

"We want liberation and we want to have an effective role in the world. We want the Arabs to be respected, not ignored. The Islamic parties attract us because they match our outlook."

Jordan's fundamentalists are not having it all their own way. A government ban on male hairdressers working in women's beauty salons, imposed in May because of Islamic pressure, was cancelled in

Muslim clerics back Saddam

Weapons development

BAGHDAD, June 20. (Reuters) Clergymen from 70 Muslim countries declared today that Iraq's "holy warrior," President Saddam Hussein, is obeying God and the holy Quran in building weapons of mass destruction.

More than 700 Islamic notables gathered in Baghdad for three days this week to back Hussein in his propaganda war with the West over Iraq's weapons developments, the most advanced in the Arab world.

Their final declaration accused Israel, the United States and Britain of a vicious media campaign and called on Muslims around the world to make ready to defend Iraq against a likely Israeli attack.

It urged Islamic clergy to stand beside "the mujahid (holy warrior) Saddam Hussein" in his effort "to acquire the deterrent force."

"This force must be employed to defend the nation and protect its countries, believers and holy shrines from criminal Zionists and those enemies of Islam who support them," it said.

Hussein spoke to the clergymen on Monday, repeating his threat to mount an all-out attack against Israel if it struck at Iraq or any other Arab state. He denied the Arab country would make the first strike.

Iraq, armaments pace-setter

of the Arab world since its 1980-88 war with Iran, boasts of its long-range missiles and advanced poison gas. It denies Western reports it is developing nuclear bombs to match those generally believed to be built by Israel.

The weapons programmes have alarmed Israel and the West, prompting confiscations this year of Western-made components allegedly intended for nuclear bombs on a giant cannon.

Still smarting from the destruction of an unfinished nuclear reactor by Israeli planes in 1981, Iraq says the West wants to deny Arabs the right to progress in both military and civilian technology.

They also said they are concerned about reports that Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi may be building a second chemical weapons factory.

Saddam on Monday renewed his pledge to respond fiercely against an Israeli attack on any Arab country, using binary chemical weapons in Iraq's possession. (AP)

Strike marks Black Sunday

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 20. (AP) Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike today, marking a month's passing since the massacre of seven Arab labourers by a lone Israeli gunman outside Tel Aviv.

"We will never forget the heroes of Black Sunday," said a slogan painted in green on a wall along the main street of Gaza city. It referred to the victims of the May 20 attack and was signed by the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas.

The murders in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion set off a spate of riots in which Palestinians were killed, most in army gunfire. Two Israelis also were slain in Arab revenge attacks.

In Gaza, only a few hundred Palestinian workers left their homes to go to jobs in Israel, according to Arab reports. The victims in the Rishon Letzion killings were all Gaza labourers waiting for day jobs in Israel.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, two Palestinian youths in the Wad Al Tufah quarter stopped cars that were on roads in defiance of strike orders and fined the drivers 20 shekels (\$10).

Witnesses said the youths were handing out receipts for the fines on forms signed by the PLO-backed United National Leadership of the Uprising. Soldiers came in a commandeered Arab car and arrested the two youths, the witnesses said.

In most areas of Gaza, the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem, traffic was sparse and virtually all shops were closed in response to the strike order, according to Arab reports.

The general strike was called by the uprising's underground leadership. A communique issued last week ordered the 1.7 million Palestinians in the territories to raise black flags and to turn off lights and sound whistles for 15 minutes starting at 9 pm (1800 GMT).

The communique was the 58th issued since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987. During the revolt, 717 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians, and 45 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians.

Yesterday, a court ordered Ami Popper, a 21-year-old Israeli, held for another 10 days in jail on charges he murdered the seven Palestinians in Rishon Letzion and wounded 10 others. A date will be set for trial once his lawyer reviews the evidence.

A lone gunman ordered about 50 Arab labourers to sit in rows, then opened fire on them with an assault rifle.

Popper was arrested the day of the slayings and charged on Monday after a psychiatric panel found him fit to stand trial. Authorities had maintained after his arrest that he was "deranged" and upset by an unhappy love affair.

An Israeli Arab accountant and part-time poet was placed under house arrest yesterday and faces trial on charges that in his poems about the Palestinian uprising he identifies with an unspecified terror organisation.

Shafiq Habib, the first Israeli Arab author to be prosecuted for his writings, said he feared authorities were trying to set a precedent.

"This is a very serious move against an Arab intellectual. This is a red light for all of us," said Habib, a father of six who lives in the northern Israeli village of Deir Hanna and works for a bus company in nearby Nazareth.

Lebanon peace bids

Hirawi dashes to Damascus

BEIRUT, June 20. (Agencies) President Elias Hrawi today paid a surprise visit to Damascus and held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, official sources said.

The sources gave no details of the talks.

The Syrian-Lebanese summit, the third since Syrian-backed Hrawi was elected last November, coincided with peace initiatives by France and the Vatican to end four months of inter-Christian battles and Lebanon's 15 years of civil war.

Meanwhile, rival Christian forces fought for a second day today in and around Beirut.

Police said two people were killed and three wounded in overnight battles. A motorist was wounded later today in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave.

That brought the number of casualties to 1,042 killed and 2,784 wounded since fighting erupted Jan 30 between the Lebanese Forces militia, led by Samir Geagea, and army troops loyal to rebel Gen. Michel Aoun. The Vatican mediated a ceasefire on May 17.

The French envoy, Francois Scheer, held separate meetings with Maronite Catholic patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, Aoun and Geagea.

He refused to elaborate on the outcome of his talks, saying: "I'm meeting with Lebanese leaders. You'll know everything when I conclude my meetings."

A source close to Sfeir, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the cleric and the French envoy "agreed that the intra-Christian war should be brought to an end."

They agreed, the source added, that a settlement of the feud and the 15-year-old civil war with the Muslims, should be based on recognising the Syrian-

backed government of President Elias Hrawi.

Scheer had met yesterday in west Beirut with Hrawi and his Prime Minister, Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim.

Syria appears to have rejected a Vatican plan aimed at bringing peace to Lebanon, Syrian officials and diplomats said today.

It came as French envoy Francois Scheer visited Beirut and Damascus lobbying support for the Vatican plan to end 15 years of civil war in Lebanon.

The officials said Syrian Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and Lebanon's parliamentary Speaker Hussein Hussein dismissed any initiative which did not conform to the Taif accord during a meeting in Damascus last night.

Diplomats said fresh backing for the Taif agreement by Syria meant a rejection of the European plan because it would require revising and modifying the Arab-brokered accord.

"Khaddam and Hussein discussed ways of implementing the (Taif) national reconciliation charter and both agreed that the charter is the only possible solution to the Lebanese crisis," the officials said.

French embassy officials said Scheer, director-general of the French Foreign Ministry, would return to Beirut after briefing Syrian leaders on the Vatican plan. It calls for Aoun and Geagea to recognise the Hrawi administration.

A bomb destroyed Christian party offices in the Lebanese village of Bikfayah overnight, security sources said today.

They said no one was hurt when the explosion ripped through the offices of the Phalange Party in the village, controlled by army units loyal to Aoun.

Egypt holds Lebanese sheep ship

PORT SAID, Egypt, June 20. (AP) Authorities seized a Lebanese cattle carrier and were questioning the ship's skipper about the mysterious appearance along Egypt's coastline of hundreds of sheep carcasses.

About 250 carcasses floated close to shore last month in the harbour of this Mediterranean port 137 miles (220 km) northeast of Cairo. Others appeared about 30 miles (50 km) away in the port of Damietta.

Chief prosecutor Mohammed Hamza said today the captain of the Lebanon-registered Al-Fares was being interrogated about the ship's apparent involvement in jettisoning the dead sheep near Egyptian waters.

He refused to identify the seaman or give more information because the investigation is continuing.

Other sources said the captain, who was not the skipper when the Al-Fares crew allegedly dumped the carcasses, was released to his ship yesterday after a few hours' detention.

The ship itself remained in custody, and some of its cargo of 13,850 live sheep were dying of starvation, the sources said.

Tehran will help uprising, says Jihad

AMMAN, June 20. (Reuters) The leader of a militant Muslim group based in Jordan said today Iran had promised to back a 30-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

"The Iranians have expressed all readiness to support the uprising and the battle against the Jews," said Sheikh Assad Bayoud Al Tamimi, head of Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis, after a trip to Tehran.

"I discussed with them the means of helping the uprising and I showed them the channels," he told a news conference.

An Israeli military source said in Tel Aviv yesterday Iran had become directly involved in the Palestinian uprising by giving money, arms and training to Islamic fundamentalists.

Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis, founded by Tamimi in 1980, claimed responsibility for killing nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptians in a bus attack near Ismailiyah, Egypt, in February.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Italian official promises EEC action on ME

Italy becomes chairman July 1

ABU DHABI, June 20, (AP): An Italian Foreign Ministry official said yesterday his country would push for a Middle East peace initiative by the European Economic Community (EEC) when it takes over the chairmanship of the 12-nation alliance next month.

Claudio Lenoci, undersecretary for foreign affairs, told a news conference the initiative would involve urging the EEC to exert pressure on the new headline government in Israel under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"The initiative I am talking about is practising political pressure on Shamir's government for it to be peaceful and not aggressive, and that pressure shall be

within the framework of the European Economic Community," Lenoci said.

Italy becomes the chairman of the EEC on July 1.

Lenoci described Rome's stance on the Palestinian problem as "an advanced one."

No solution

He expressed concern about the deadlock in Middle East peace initiatives, especially the lack of progress in Egyptian and US efforts to arrange a direct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to settle the 42-year-old problem.

Earlier in the day, Lenoci met with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al

Nahayan. He said he stressed to Sheikh Zayed the "importance" of an EEC role in arranging for peace negotiations among parties concerned in the Middle East conflict.

Turning to the large-scale influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, Lenoci said: "Italy had announced that Jewish emigration would complicate the problem and delay the peaceful resolution in the region, but we do not have any solution to the emigration."

The issue has drawn angry protests from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab governments who fear Jewish emigrants would be settled on occupied territories, driving more Palestinians out

of their homeland.

Israeli officials say up to 150,000 emigrants would arrive in Israel before the end of the year. Hundreds of thousands of others are expected in Israel in the next few years.

Lenoci led the Italian side to the joint UAE-Italian Economic Commission which oversees development of economic relations between the two countries.

He said during the meetings, joint ventures involving the transfer of Italian technology to the oil-rich Gulf state were discussed.

He said he agreed with Oil Minister Mana Saeed Al Otaiba to study joint ventures in the oil industry.

Don't turn back on ME peace bid

(Continued from Page 1)

beach and Yasser Arafat's failure to outrightly condemn the attack.

But Pickering put the blame squarely on Abu Abbas who, he said, masterminded the attack in an attempt to destroy the peace process and to harm Arafat.

Pickering arrived in Kuwait for talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed after visiting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He has tried to reassure the Gulf leaders that the US is committed to helping the Middle East peace process after Washington came under fire in the Arab world for vetoing a Security Council resolution asking for a UN fact-finding mission to investigate Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

Pickering explained that the US veto stemmed from conviction that a mission sent by the Security Council would not be acceptable.

Instead Washington proposed a mission to be sent by the UN secretary-general, whose representatives, Pickering said, was on the way to Israel.

He said he noted the Arab leaders' concern about the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and increased violence in the occupied territories. But he also tried to assure the Arabs that the US has not barred the Soviet Jews from entering the country. He said a maximum of 80,000 Soviet Jews, roughly a half of the US refugee quota, will arrive in the US this year.

He rejected the idea of sanctions as a punitive measure against Israel saying they are difficult to impose and might alienate those Israelis who support the peace process.

He denied allegations that the US is biased in favour of Israel saying that US has issued tough statements criticising Israel when it breached human rights.

The envoy contended that the US treats both Arabs and Israel evenhandedly, despite complaints by both sides to the contrary, and stressed that Washington is not omnipotent and does not believe in dictated agreements.

Only a negotiated settlement can bring a lasting peace to the area, although it is a more painful and slower process, he stressed.

KUNA adds Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on Wednesday received Pickering who is currently on a visit here.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the meeting has touched on a number of international issues and topics of mutual concern.

Sheikh Sabah said the issues discussed were topped by the Middle East crisis, the US vetoing of Arab-sponsored draft resolutions at the UN Security Council condemning Israeli practices and the US cut of \$6 million assistance to the UN Relief Agency (Unrwa) for Palestinian workers, a move criticised by Sheikh Sabah.

Jordan gets Kuwaiti and UAE aid

AMMAN, June 20, (Reuters): Cash-strapped Jordan has received money and oil products from Kuwait, the latest Arab state to respond to a plea for help from King Hussein, a senior official said today.

He said Kuwait had just given \$25 million in cash and oil products worth \$20 million, with a promise of a further \$50 million in cash and \$40 million in oil products.

The Gulf emirate was the third country to make an aid payment to Jordan since King Hussein's urgent appeal for help at last month's Arab League summit in Baghdad.

"We need your support now, not tomorrow, not in the future," the King declared, saying Jordan had exhausted its material resources in defence of the longest Arab frontline with Israel.

He voiced fears for the stability of the kingdom, whose fragile economy has trouble two years ago, and said Israel was trying to turn Jordan into "a crack in the Arab front."



Companies thanked

Governor of Ahmedi, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, recently patronised a special function held at Kuwait Regency Palace organised by the governorate administration to honour companies who contributed to the annual activity of government programmes.

Mishal Al Mutairi, a committee member delivering the keynote address stressed the role of the Ahmedi governorate and all committee members in their consistent efforts to support the different governorate activity programmes.

The committee chairman, Jasem Al Shattil, also expressed his deep gratitude for all the efforts exerted in support of all greening and landscaping activities in the governorate. Certificates of appreciation were handed to all selected companies.



Air fares battle

Consumers continue to bemoan lack of special fares in Kuwait

AIR FARES have become the talk of most travellers now that the summer vacation is at hand. Air travellers pay up for tickets although they are not convinced that they are receiving value for money. The high price of air travel has also forced many to look at other options especially overland travel.

Higher number of complaints have been recently encountered in the local travel market. Most airlines claim that some travellers have the wrong idea about the increase in fares because in actual fact airlines and travel agents are only complying with IATA prices. Others understand the real situation of travel agents but consider air travel to be more expensive in Kuwait than in any other country in the world.

A section of travellers complained that special air fares available as a matter of course on other Gulf states are simply not available in Kuwait.

Deputy Director General for Commercial Affairs at Kuwait Airways Corporation Ghazi Al Meshaan told a local daily in an interview that the fluctuation in air fares within the region is commonplace and is due to many factors.

Meshaan indicated that Kuwait Airways Corporation is not the only price controlling body in the market but added that IATA operations committee had a hand in deciding prices. He added that in addition to these factors agreements made between countries also play a role in this field. As an example he pointed out to the agreement made among GCC states air

fares which applies a 35 per cent discount in order to encourage travel between the states.

Regarding the difference in prices on the same route between two countries, he indicated that this was governed by the currency exchange rates in both countries and the structure of the pricing systems applied at the national airline companies. He stated that the pricing structure takes into account the actual price of the ticket or the official price. He pointed out that the price of tickets in Egypt has increased. He added that new ticket prices are approved by the Higher Aviation Council stressing that the last increase in ticket prices three years ago. The rise of prices was due to the hike in fuel prices in addition to operation costs and salaries and wages.

Facilities

Meshaan stated that smaller markets do not allow many privileges and facilities to travellers. He stated that Kuwait Airways Corporation began agreements with other local and international companies regarding applying suitable prices in the market.

He indicated that the operational size of any company and work size indicate costs and as a result ticketing prices are affected. He stated that KAC is exerting full efforts in order to fulfil seasonal requirements. He stated that the company provides additional flights due to the high consumer demand.

Meshaan said that not permitting local travel offices to give discounts on air tick-

ets will improve their services and at the end consumers will also benefit. He stated that travellers ignorance towards discounts is not their responsibility. He stressed that Kuwait Airways Corporation still offers discount to families children and the elderly.

Agreements

On the other hand, a number of interviews were conducted with officials at airline companies in Kuwait. Abdul Rahman Younis, general director of Egypt Air in Kuwait stated that previously prices of air tickets were calculated according to fixed exchange rates. He added that since the beginning of the 1970's constant fluctuation in exchange rates led to an increase in prices. He added that they comply with all agreements made and with decisions reached by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in each country. He added that the huge size of the air travel market in the west reflects on air services and their prices.

The general manager of Syrian Airlines in Kuwait, Ayda Khishafani stated that Syrian Air like all other companies comply with laws made by IATA. She said that the company offers discounts to families and journalists and their families. She added that a decision was issued by Kuwait Travel Agents Union calling for the unification of ticket prices among travel offices and companies in general. She stressed that such a decision was made to improve customer service and to prevent price modifications.

MEW plans meter reading by computer

THE Ministry of Electricity and Water is currently studying a project to read electricity and water meters through computer aided remote control process. Assistant Undersecretary for Consumers Affairs, Ali Al Fannini announced yesterday. He added that the project will save a lot of energy and time and will facilitate update reading of meters. The ministry has last month introduced new bills payment system in which consumers can pay directly to the ministry's specially established offices in the various areas. Fannini said that the ministry will subject the new direct payment system to a detailed study to examine its success. The object of the study will be to improve the service and avoid any shortcomings in the new system.

He announced that the consumption of fresh water has been gradually increasing. The average daily fresh water consumption has shot up to 150 million imperial gallons, he said. He added that the ministry has allocated two million gallons of fresh water daily for agricultural purposes to Abdali and Wafra areas. The official added that power consumption during summer goes up by about 30 per cent compared to that in winter.

Meanwhile, a statistical report issued by the Ministry of Electricity and Water registered a new record power consumption figure of 4,380 mw on June 13 when temperature under shade reached 47 degree Celsius (117F). This is the highest ever power consumption average in a single day in Kuwait and the second record consumption in less than a month. Kuwait has been hit by a heat wave very early this summer in which record temperatures were registered especially during the month of May.

But the consumption of electricity is still far less than the production capacity of the six power generating stations in Kuwait which can produce over 7,000 mw a day. The first record consumption figure was recorded on May 22 with 4,340 mw. Meanwhile, the maximum drinking water consumption on a single day was recorded on May 14 with 150 million imperial gallons.

Brighter prospects for service sector

GCC remains net importer

MANAMA, June 20, (GNA): According to an economic study released in the Gulf, the service sector is expected to look up, particularly the growth rates recorded by the insurance, marine freight and aviation establishments in the GCC countries in the near future.

The study, issued by the Manama-based International Gulf Bank, said that the insurance and sea freight companies have in the post Iraq-Iran war era capitalised on the cessation of war and activated their operations which resulted in a rapid increase of their profitability percentages over the past few years.

The study added that the air transport industry has received added support due to the general growth rate in passenger traffic at the international level and the efforts exerted to revitalise tourism in the region. Additionally, the constant efforts of the countries in the region to diversify their economic stakes, with dependence on oil revenues which actively contributed to the increase in national income pouring out from the service sectors and this led to a similar increase in the GDP in the region.

The study pointed out that the service sector in the GCC is largely a net importer rather than a net exporter, in the sense that the region still depends on foreign companies for its main service requirements.

The study said that the value of deficit of banks in the services in the GCC countries as recorded in 1989 reached \$15.8 billion. However, this figure dropped steadily since it reached its zenith in 1981 when the deficit value reached \$44 billion.

Growth

On the other extreme, the value of services exports, which include revenues of marine transport, aviation, insurance, banking and tourism activities and others, recorded annual growth rates of 20 per cent during the period of the boom (1976-81). But, the ensuing four years witnessed a great drop in these rates, down to 2 per cent before the drop began negative growth between 1986 and 1988.

The study pointed out that the value of importing these services from abroad zoomed by 35 per cent annually during the period from 1976 to 1981 but this percentage increased by less than 1

per cent during the period from 1982 to 1985 before it took a negative turn in the ensuing years.

The study reveals that despite the fact that the current situation in the Gulf aviation companies seem to qualify to utilise new chances, and consequently increase their revenues, they still face sharp competition on their international routes of operation, and hence it is certain that the announcement of unified Europe will force the aviation companies in the region to foster inter-co-operation to be better able to face up to this competition on the international air transport markets.

Owing to the inclination by the majority of aviation companies in the region to expand and modernise their air fleets, the study added, the aircraft manufacturers began to double the prices of new orders for aircraft submitted during 1989.

Improvement

The study also pointed out that, with the improvement of the economic activities, the air transport industry is beginning to flourish again. Forwarding rates have resumed their increase at the time when the carriers started to utilise the surplus energy and also benefit from the drop in the insurance rates following the discontinuation of the Iraq-Iran war.

The study said that the Gulf countries have started to set up plans to establish new marine fleets in order to reduce the cost of exports and meet their constantly increasing requirements for transport activities. This has led to a rise in oil exports and encouraged marine transport companies to improve and upgrade their existing fleets and yet sign new contracts for building new ships.

The national oil-tankers fleet consisting of 61 tankers, with a total loading capacity of 5.8 million tons, of which 34 ships are used for transporting raw oil, 6 for transport liquefied and natural gas and 21 for transporting petroleum products, the study stated.

The study projected that the average operational age of 75 per cent of the Gulf oil tankers will increase over 17 years, where the oil tanker will need a replacement, and hence a total of 24 tankers with a total load capacity of 2.4 million tons will

either have to be replaced or rebuilt during the period from 1990 to 1995.

Tourism

The study considered the revitalisation of tourism in the region a significantly serious effort resulting from the growing need to diversify the economic stages and develop potential tourism capabilities. Such endeavours will provide new job opportunities and increase national income.

The study said that the hotels in the area, which were set up during the oil boom period, and which used to suffer from the insufficiency of clients during the economic recession period, have started to witness a remarkable improvement in operational rates over the past years owing to the increasing numbers of visitors, tourists and businessmen.

The study stressed that the tourism sector in the region is still young and therefore it will be a long time before it will be considered a reliable source for extra national revenues and for the provision of new work opportunities for the citizens. This is based on the belief that the countries in the region are expected to reap the fruits of all efforts exerted to encourage tourism over the next few years, especially if the economic situation and activities kept on improving.

The study expected that airports in the region will lose a good percentage of their transit passengers when international airlines start operating long-haul flights in the region, which will start losing its importance.

The study emphasised that the oil sector has actively contributed to the emergence of new types of insurance, one on machines and the other on ships and marine freights.

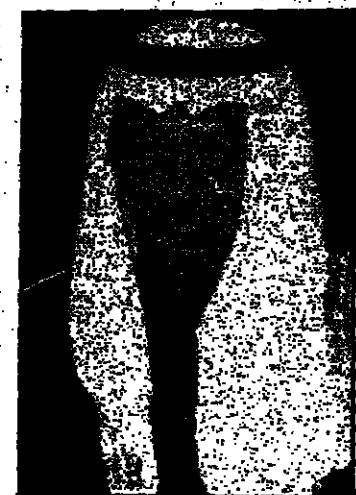
The study called for the concentration of insurance companies efforts and for the return of insurance registration to the region, as they should be busy planning, in consolidating their capabilities and enrich their capitals over the years of the present decade.

The study stressed on the ample opportunities existing for these companies to foster co-operation between them and mobilise their potentials to face up to growing hazards related to oil industries.

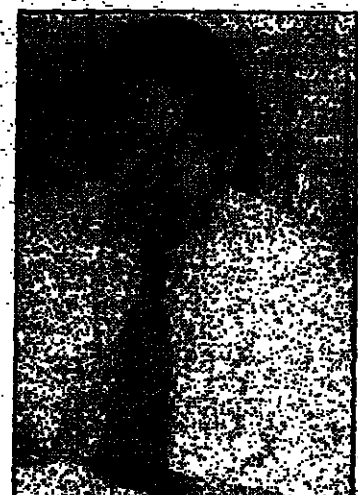
Kuwait names new cabinet



Dr Hmoud Al-Rqbah — Electricity, Water



Sheikh Jaber Al Hamad — Information



Dr Abdelwahab Al Fouzan — Health

(Continued from Page 1)

Fahad A. Al Hasawi, State Minister for Municipality Affairs.

Mohammed N. Al Hindhan, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Naser A. Al Roudhan, Minister of Trade and Industry.

Nasser M. Al Ahmad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

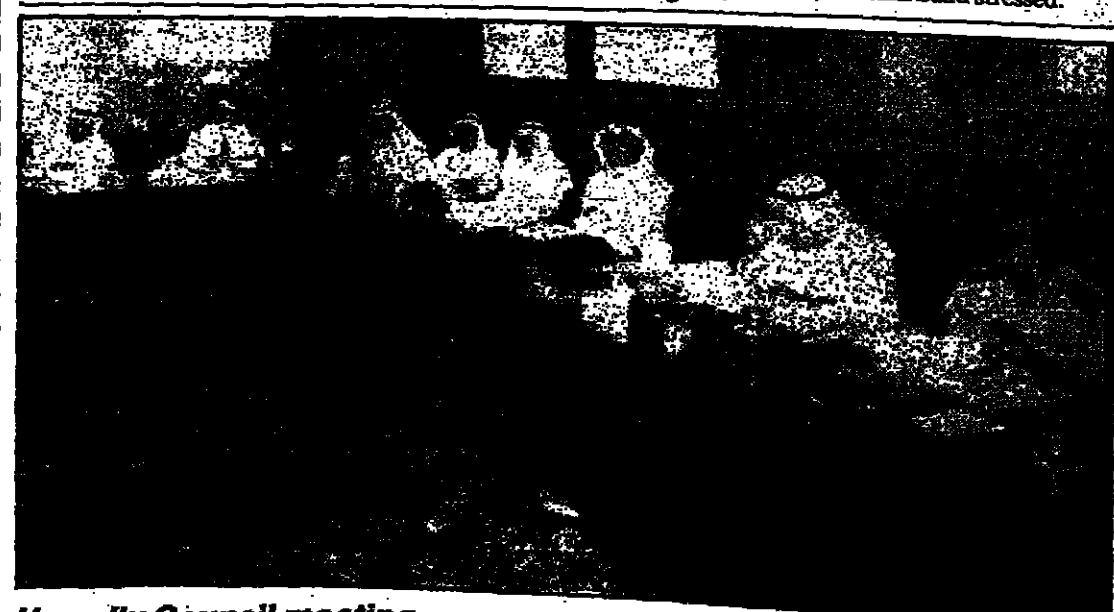
Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Minister of Defence.

Yahya F. Al Sumait, Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem, who formed the government after ten days of the election of the interim National Council, said in a letter to His Highness the Amir that the top priority of the new government will "focus on building the

Kuwaiti man, develop his abilities and prepare him for achieving a quantum leap for our country in various fields."

"With the election of the National Council, our beloved country arrived at a new important crossroad looking forward to lay down the foundation for the parliamentary life on solid basis and on genuine co-operation," Sheikh Saad stressed.



Hawally Council meeting

Hawally Governorate Council held a meeting under the chairmanship of Dawood Mused Al Saleh to discuss a number of issues referred to it by citizens and members. Recommendations were adopted preliminary to submission for final endorsement to the relevant official authorities. Some of the issues discussed by the council included rental allowance increase for qualified Kuwaitis, and the proposed increase of the salary ceiling for qualified Kuwaitis to receive the allowance from KD700 to KD1,000.

Cabinet to receive development plan in 2 weeks

Higher Planning Council to meet July 25

THE permanent committee at Higher Planning Council is currently preparing a memo on long and short term development plans, a local daily quoted an official source at the Council as saying.

He added that the relevant memo will be referred to the cabinet for endorsement within two weeks. He pointed out that the preparation of both long and short term plans have been given necessary lengthy

study in view of its importance for the state's economic, social and political schemes.

The source added that the said memo to the Cabinet has tabled all the proposals suggested by the council relating to population, development, housing, education and investment policies to be discussed by the Executive Power in order to take the appropriate measures in this connection.

Meanwhile, the daily quoted well informed sources at the council as saying that the permanent committee of the council during its meeting held under the chairmanship of the minister of planning Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has decided to request the ministry of oil to provide the committee with details of Kuwaiti foreign investments and future trends of this

important economic axis.

He added that the public policies committee chaired by the higher planning council member Abdurazzak Al Khaled had held a meeting to finalise the memo which will be referred to the Higher Planning Council. The HPC meeting will take place on July 25 and will be presided over by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Screwworm invasion of Kuwait ruled out

By Ali Al Masoudi

AN OFFICIAL at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has ruled out the possibility of the killer screwworm fly arriving in Kuwait or the Middle East. The Screwworm is reportedly in Libya now after it left its original home in Paraguay.

The official told Seyssah that the authority has been taking consistent steps in anticipation of a potential attack by flocks of the screwworm flies. All possible infection sources have been thought of such as sheep imports. He pointed out that all imported animals are being sprayed with insecticides and that suspected carrier animals will not be admitted into the country.

He added that these animals will be housed in special quarantines and subjected to intensive tests and observation for potential ulcers or outbreak of infections.

He pointed out that the authority will sponsor an educational lecture on this type of fly to be held at the Kuwait Agriculture Engineers Society premises. The lecture will entail a detailed account on the life cycle and perils involved in the event of invasion by swarms of these killer flies, and all queries raised about this subject will be answered.

He said that the possibility of swarms of this killer fly invading Kuwait is remote.

He pointed out that this fly is extremely dangerous to animal resources and that its active movement from one country to another is a source of international panic.

Five Arab airlines to meet here

GENERAL managers of five Arab airlines who use the French Air bus in their fleet are to hold a meeting in Kuwait during the first week of next month, according to the general manager of Iraqi Airways Nouruddin Al-Saifi.

In an interview with Gulf News Agency (GNA), the Iraqi official said that the meeting aims at unifying the conferees policies in the areas of commercial and technical integration.

He added that the meeting to be organised by Kuwait Airways aims also at the rationalisation of the participating companies expenditures and to minimise dependence on foreign companies.

Saifi added that the meeting will be attended by the general managers of Egyptian Air, Saudi, Jordanian Air Lines, Iraqi Airways in addition to the chairman and managing director of Kuwait Airways.

Meanwhile, the agency reported that the Iraqi Airways intends to conclude a contract for the purchasing of six Airbus 600-210 from France at a total value of \$500 million.

It added that the forthcoming meeting will be the first of its kind to be attended by Arab officials from GCC and Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) in the civil aviation technical field.

Cyprus visas

HOLDERS of Kuwaiti travel documents will no longer be given visiting visas to Cyprus, the honorary Cypriot consul to Kuwait, Fahed Al Ojail was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the Cypriot consulate in Kuwait had been instructed by the Cypriot Foreign Affairs Ministry that visiting visas should not be granted to those bearing Kuwaiti travel documents.

He clarified that the holders of travel documents who would like to travel to Cyprus should apply to the consulate in Kuwait three months prior to the intended travel date in order to get the necessary permission from the Cypriot authorities concerned. He added that these procedures had been taken in order to enable the Cypriot security authorities to get the necessary information about the applicants.

Peddalling for a school in Cambodia

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

IT is perhaps a sign of the times that young people who rebel against predominant values in their societies should embrace humanitarian causes, and hardships that go with them.

Last November Steven Locke, 21, and Benjamin Dodd, 24 set out on their bicycles from their native England to pedal across Europe, the Middle East and much of Asia to the Far East and on the way raise money for a school in Cambodia.

Now in Kuwait, they say they "blame" Margaret Thatcher and Bob Geldof for what they are doing. Blame, of course, is a wrong word certainly in the case of Geldof who, if anything, was and is an inspiration.

As for Thatcher, they do blame her for promoting a life-style that has big bucks and rapid climb to the top for an aim and a rat race as a means to achieving it.

The two men say they are disillusioned with Thatcher's politics and ruthless capitalism. Not that Steve and Benjamin lack ambition. Their trip is evidence enough of an extraordinary determination to succeed against all odds. But they question a society where, they say, people are increasingly reluctant to put themselves out for others.

Raising money for Cambodia, a confusing and even obscure cause, is not easy. But that is why they have chosen it. Says Steve: "Cambodia is a problem that does not get the publicity and aid it deserves."

"It is a political hotcake that no one will touch because many problems there have not been solved for many years" adds Benjamin.

Steve, a graphic designer and Benjamin who has a degree in catering management, met only two weeks before they set out on their journey. Both wanted to do something worthwhile before they too would be forced to settle down and join that rat race. But it took a travel agency and Oxfam, the largest British charity, for the pair to get together. Both worked and saved for two years for the trip and will seek jobs when their reserves are exhausted, perhaps in Hong Kong or Japan. All the money they raise on the way, so far some £10,000 to £12,000 - roughly half the amount they are aiming for - will go through Oxfam towards a school in Cambodia, an on-going project that needs additional funds. They are seeking donations in Kuwait and among the first to come forward was the Kuwait International Hotel with KD100.

Their journey, expected to last some 18 months, was an adventure almost from the start. As they reached Eastern Europe late last year they entered what was the centre stage of world events. They left the crumbling Berlin wall behind them to move onto Hungary which was teeming with refugees from other East European countries. They reached the Romanian border as Nicolae Ceausescu made his last attempt to crack down on dissenters, and were refused entry.

Every day, and more so every night, when they sought to pitch their tent, brought new challenges. In Austria where winter was raging they slept under a bridge, the only place not covered with snow. Elsewhere they pitched their tent in cemeteries and people's backyards. While still travelling through Europe Steve suffered from frostbite. In Cairo Benjamin had his appendix removed and was not allowed to cycle for two weeks. Not to lose time the two men hitch-hiked.

As they plan their journey into Asia they are excited about the prospect of visiting the Indian sub-continent. Ironically, they might not be allowed to enter Cambodia.

"In a way I won't be that disappointed. We don't want to enter the country and appear patronising and condescending because we are raising money for them" said Benjamin.

The journey home will hopefully take them via the Soviet Union on the Trans-Siberian express. They plan to get off in Poland and cycle back to Britain.

As they traverse continents and experience joy and hardships for a humanitarian cause Benjamin and Steve, whether they realise it or not, are harbingers of a new breed of young protesters. More than two decades ago hippies congregated in the streets and parks to protest the prevailing system of values and promote love, peace and flower power. No matter how worthy their ideals were, looking scruffy and appearing to do little more than strum on the guitar, talk and demonstrate, they were easy to dismiss as bums. But the world has graduated from that experience and nobody would dare say the same about Steve and Benjamin, and many more who seek to fulfill their ideals through actions of their own.



Steve and Benjamin in Kuwait

More schools planned in Hawalli governorate

Other projects endorsed

GOVERNOR of Hawalli, Abdullatif Al Barges was quoted as saying that the governorate is paying special concern to setting up new schools to alleviate the existing density in classes of the governorates.

Speaking to a local daily on the various activities of the governorate, the official said that the governorate pays special attention to applications submitted by citizens on various issues either submitted directly or via the Mukhtar (Mayor).

Among the various issues the governorate is undertaking, is one which involves setting up a vegetable market in Hawalli to serve citizens and additionally, the governorate council had recently endorsed several educational, health and social projects including the provision of health and co-operative services in Al Qurain Area.

Traffic

Social activities are also being addressed in co-ordination with the state's educational and social apparatuses with the objective of creating self-reliant generations. In this respect, the Hawalli Governorate intends to set-up several enterprises in view of its touristic facilities and beaches which extend from Al Shaabara to Al Messilah. He commented that Hawalli constituted the country's main resort during the

1920s and has always been distinguished among the country's areas.

Speaking of traffic accidents in the governorate, Barges said statistics indicated that they were normal in comparison to the population and in this respect praised the efforts of traffic police in the governorate.

On the issue of drugs, the governor said that the Ministry of Interior takes severe cognisance of the importance of ensuring that all attempts to smuggle drugs into the country are foiled. However, he said that it needs a concentrated effort of all authorities, including the security, educational, informational and social apparatuses to play their individual and collective roles to eradicate the menace. He said that the spread of Islamic principles could play a significant role in preventing delinquency.

On housing care in Kuwait, he said that the system adopted in Kuwait is unique, and the state provides housing care which causes a pressure on the National Housing Authority (NHA). However, he commented that citizens staying in government houses in Hawalli and Salmiya suffer from the encroachment of commercial buildings. Meanwhile, the governor praised the response of building owners at

the governorate towards renovating old buildings in accordance with the renovation plan set up by Kuwait Municipality.

Greening

Areas denoted for the purposes of greenery are being co-ordinated with the public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, the governor said.

Speaking of the governor's powers, Barges said that the Amiri Decree No. 97/89 had stipulated that the governor should shoulder the responsibility of supervising the implementation of the state's policy and follow up the development projects in the governorates. Additionally, he should oversee the security process and follow up resolutions adopted by the Governorate Council in addition to addressing complaints and petitions submitted by citizens.

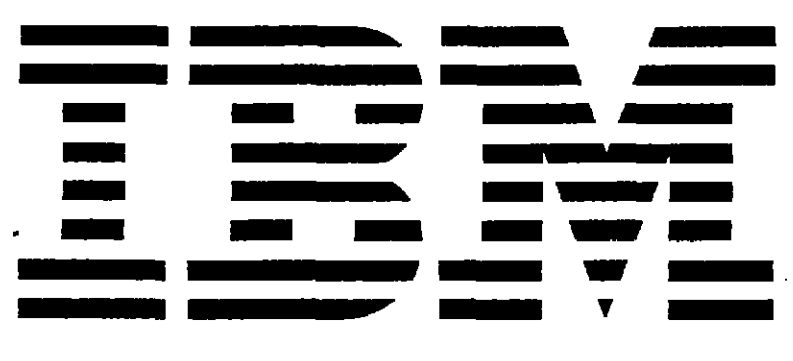
The decree empowers the governor with ministerial powers in connection with financial and administrative affairs of the governorate.

However, he added that we are looking to expanding the powers of the governor in accordance with the directives of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier to minimise the centralisation process and alleviate burdens of citizens.

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Baggage warning

DGCA provides list of prohibited items

THE public relations department of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has said in a press release that it is entirely prohibited for passengers to include in their baggage or to carry with them to the aircraft the following materials:-

1. All weapons whether it is fired by the force of an explosion or compressed air and all kinds of ammunition.
2. Bombs and all kinds of explosive and fireworks or any chemical combinations which may result in explosions or fire as well as mercury and semblance explosives like marjoram and rahash.
3. All tear-gas and flammable gases which may constitute a hazard to aircraft whether these gases are in canisters or any container.
4. It is prohibited for passengers to carry with them to the aircraft the following articles:-
 1. All articles with sharp edges like swords, knives, straight razors, scissors elongated more than three inches, ice picks and labour tools.
 2. All kinds of bludgeons and walking sticks if it has a metal end.
 3. Poisons or infectious substances.
 4. Dry ice, deodorizer spray, gas lighters refill and air freshner cans.
 5. Matches and lighters if the quantity exceeds personal use.
 6. Batteries of all kinds.
 7. All toys in the shape of weapons, bombs or grenades.

- Disallowed food items**
- (1) Milk products unsealed.
 - (2) Salt fish unsealed which is eaten without cooking.
 - (3) Sea shells having flesh and its byproducts.
 - (4) All foods made at home abroad and ready to consume (like cake).
 - (5) Mineral water which is not sealed by original manufacturer.
 - (6) Olives and pickles which are not sealed by original manufacturer.
 - (7) Fresh figs.
 - (8) All vegetables which are ready to eat when fresh.

- Allowed food items**
- (1) All fruits which can be peeled.
 - (2) Dates.
 - (3) Nuts (pistachios, almonds etc.)
 - (4) Honey.
 - (5) All food and drinks (non-alcoholic) sealed by manufacturer.
 - (6) Fresh meat of any birds (uncooked).

Abs Dhabi Gulf Business Machines P.O. Box 203 Tel: 34 51 65	Bahrain Bahrain Business Machines P.O. Box 819 Tel: 53 45 00	Dubai UCMC P.O. Box 9236 Tel: 37 31 35	Jordan Gulf Business Machines (GBM) P.O. Box 6410 Amman Tel: 67 01 71	Kuwait Kuwait Business Machines P.O. Box 4175 Tel: 565 30 00	Oman Gulf Business Machines P.O. Box 169 Tel: 60 21 10	Qatar GBM Qatar P.O. Box 9307 Tel: 43 53 95
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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LET me have my way exactly in everything, and you will find that a pleasant creature does not exist —
Thomas Carlyle, Scottish historian (1795-1881).

Human rights issue United Nations adding muscle

NEW YORK, (CSM): The United Nations, long considered weak on human rights issues, has been quietly adding muscle. In the process it is gaining respect from human rights activists.

The change comes as democracy is spreading from Latin America to Eastern Europe and when East-West tensions within the UN have eased considerably. It is a time, too, when the UN is rapidly assuming the lead in tackling other global problems such as the environment and narcotics.

The UN's broad membership, once seen as an impediment to action, is increasingly viewed as a plus, giving it unique leverage. "If we want to improve human rights, it is governments that are going to have to change their practices — they are accountable," says Isabelle Jacques, a representative of Amnesty International.

Critics say the UN still ignores more blatant human rights violators, such as China and Iraq, and that its rebukes are too timid. Yet Ms Jacques and other human rights activists say the UN has made procedural changes that have transformed it into a vital player and key ally.

Standards

Over the years the UN has set universal human rights standards and expanded the definition of violations to include cultural practices such as female circumcision. Nations that ratify UN human rights conventions must submit regular reports outlining how they comply. Recently the UN committee that oversees the Convention Against Torture turned back a report from China and asked for another by December.

"The more difficult part for the UN, now that the easier legislative side of things is winding up, will be to enforce the standards," notes Enayat Houshmand, chief of the international instruments section of the Geneva-based Centre for Human Rights.

The UN also has new mechanisms in place to investigate human rights allegations. The UN Human Rights Commission assigns special rapporteurs or working groups to such countries as Afghanistan, Romania, and El Salvador and to such cross-border topics as religious intolerance and torture. This year the UN added the global sale of children and child pornography to that list. Experts such as judges and lawyers gather data from many sources and make on-site visits where allowed.

In the early '70s it would have been unimaginable to send in investigative missions," says Elisavet Stamatopoulou, chief of the New York office of the UN Centre for Human Rights. "Now some countries don't just grudgingly accept our missions — they invite the UN in." The list includes Bulgaria, Turkey, South Korea, Chile, Afghanistan, and most recently, Iran.

Iran had argued for six years that the way it treated its people was its own business. Yet last January Iran admitted the UN investigator, a Salvadoran lawyer, and will let him return later this year.

Although the Iranian government's opposition called the resultant report a "staged whitewash," Amnesty's Ms Jacques notes that the UN investigator managed a "foot in the door" — something her organisation has been unable to do.

The UN also has an important new mechanism that allows for faster reactions to complaints of violations. Now UN representatives may phone or cable the offending country for a response when a complaint is received. Last year the UN received 300,000 human rights complaints, a fivefold jump from the year before.

"It's a mediating exercise to make the governments really start talking about the problem," says Ms Stamatopoulou. "Condemning governments is not enough."

She says that "shame" is the UN's chief weapon, and an effective one. "Countries that are violators know they will get talked about. It's extraordinary how hard many of them will lobby to make sure their names will not be mentioned.... There is constant, constant pressure on them."

Jeri Laber, executive director of Helsinki Watch, says she has turned more frequently to the UN as its human rights machinery has grown stronger. She says naming names and applying public pressure works. "By singling out nations and showing the difference between their words and deeds, we are holding them up to the public scrutiny and exerting a kind of moral pressure," she says.

Human rights activists say they remember being cut off or reprimanded at the UN as recently as a decade ago for mentioning specific countries. "Today you cannot only mention the names of countries but cases, and you can have the UN do something about them," notes Felice Gaer, executive director of the International League for Human Rights, the oldest human rights organization in the US.

Yet she and other human rights leaders point with concern to a recurring move within the UN led by the developing world which they say threatens to erode progress. "Some countries want to go back to the old days when everybody said they favoured human rights and no one mentioned a name," says Ms Gaer.

The most significant proposal, championed by Cuba and already approved at last year's session of the General Assembly, would expand the membership of the UN Human Rights Commission to include more Third-World countries. This is likely to make agreements on rights violations more difficult to come by.

Developing countries also want to limit probes to regionally balanced groups made up of diplomats, rather than of individual legal experts. Such nations also want to channel cases through the commission in a confidential procedure that could quash them.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1661 — Peace of Kars signed between Russia and Sweden, ending northern war, and Russia abandons all claims to Livonia.

1793 — British under Lord Lake defeat Irish rebels at Vinegar Hill and enter Wexford, ending Irish rebellion.

1813 — British under Duke of Wellington rout French completely at Vittoria, forcing Joseph Bonaparte to flee from Spain to France.

1887 — Britain annexes Zululand, blocking Transvaal's attempts to gain access to coast.

1915 — Boer forces under Christian de Wet surrender at Bloemfontein, South Africa.

1919 — German fleet is scuttled in Scapa Flow, Scotland.

1945 — Japanese forces on Okinawa surrender to Americans in World War II.

1960 — Britain, France, Netherlands and United States provide for a Caribbean organisation for economic co-operation.

1962 — United States expresses concern over Chinese concentrations on mainland opposite Quemoy.

1963 — France withdraws Atlantic naval forces from NATO.

1965 — Houari Boumedienne tries to organise new government in Algeria after ousting and arresting president Ahmed Ben Bella.

1970 — Indochina war erupts on dozen fronts in heaviest fighting since Vietnam conflict spread to Cambodia in April.

1971 — International Court of Justice in the Hague rules that South Africa's administration of territory of South-West Africa is illegal.

1976 — Rioting breaks out in black townships around Pretoria in South Africa.

1987 — International energy agency warns that world oil demand could exceed supply in 1990s.

1989 — Shanghai authorities execute three men convicted of setting train ablaze during student-led protests.

Rethink colonization participation

Facts on occupied Palestine

SIR: In this, the 42nd year of the establishment of the Zionist state in Palestine, we are witnessing the large-scale emigration there of Soviet Jews and into the Arab territories occupied in 1967. We take this occasion to address this historic letter to the Soviet Jews who have already arrived in occupied Palestine and those intending to emigrate. It is hoped that this letter will strike a chord in their souls and will prompt some of them, at least, to reconsider their decision to participate in the colonization of Palestine.

Dear Soviet Jew,
You who contemplate leaving your home country, the Soviet Union, this progressive land — you who have decided for reasons of your own which have nothing to do with us, the Palestinian Arabs, to desert the ancestral land of your birth, and to surrender your Soviet citizenship — we wish to draw your attention to some facts concerning occupied Palestine, if you genuinely intend to settle there. These are facts which you may have overlooked, or which may have been distorted by Zionist propaganda.

The principal facts we would like you to recognise as an emigrant and prospective settler are these:

Links

First: You are leaving a noble country with a glorious past and severing your links with a great nation in order to settle in a country founded on usurpation and on the deportation of another people? Even if your decision to leave the Soviet Union is free and irrevocable, would it not be better to make your choice without jeopardizing the life, security, and peaceful existence of another people. When you decide to emigrate to Israel (i.e. occupied Palestine), you will have declared your allegiance to a minor colonialist state with which your only links are religious ones.

Second: Your arrival as a settler in Palestine, whether in the area known as the state of Israel or in the occupied territories (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) will simply mean, in the first case, that you are occupying the place of a Palestinian who has been exiled for 42 years, awaiting his right to return; in the second case, you will be expropriating the land and occupying the home of a Palestinian whom, intentionally or otherwise, you will be deporting from his own home and forcing into a life of wretched exile.

Third: The Zionist movement, which has glorified emigration in your eyes, is in fact turning you from a respectable citizen into a colonialist usurper; it is transforming you from a man of conscience and morality into a man without either, because you will be forced to close your eyes to the expropriation of the land and property of the Palestinian Arabs, the murder of women and children, and to the setting up of concentration camps for a whole people. In short, in bringing you to occupied Palestine, the Zionist movement will transform you from a man of moral principle to a criminal in both the moral and legal senses. You must realize that the international Zionist movement and the imperialist powers are deceiving you in order to



Soviet immigrant families at Budapest airport en route to occupied Palestine. (Reuter wirephoto)

manipulate you as fuel for the fires of invasion, colonisation and exploitation of the people of Palestine as well as of the Arab nation as a whole.

Fourth: If you consider your personal, family and cultural interests, you should realize that by emigrating to Palestine you will inevitably be the main loser, in the long term. From the economic point of view, you are coming to live in a country which survives on US aid and which is burdened by heavy foreign debts. From a social point of view, you are coming to live in a society where crime, violence and racial discrimination prevail. From the point of view of security, you are coming to live in a militaristic state, which is in disharmony with its neighbours and which can only survive through force and the oppression of another people, who are the original owners of the land. Consequently, you should not expect that your dreams of prosperity, security, and social advancement will be realized.

Consideration

Dear Soviet Jewish emigrant,
We appeal to you to give close consideration to the above, and to consider seriously the future of your children when you think of emigrating to Israel. Do you want your own young child to become the murderer of the Palestinian child, the owner of the land who yearns for freedom, independence, and homeland? Will you be prepared to have your children become tools for the oppression and murder of the children of Palestine?

Dear Soviet Jewish emigrant,
If this is your final decision, you are free to

emigrate. But, would it not be better to emigrate to a country which enjoys stability and to a promising society that would welcome you, rather than to a state founded on usurpation and aggression? We earnestly appeal to you not to emigrate to occupied Palestine, and to postpone your emigration until you have the opportunity to emigrate to a country that would provide a decent life and a promising future for you, your children, and your grand-children, so as not to darken their souls with the burden of eternal guilt — the guilt felt by the invader and usurper who has taken the place of the dispossessed, who endure the hardest of circumstances as a result of your illegal emigration into their land. With this in mind, dear Soviet Jew, your children and grandchildren who are coming to settle in Palestine will never know what happiness is or taste peace or security of spirit.

For the last time, dear Soviet Jew, we appeal to you not to emigrate to our usurped homeland, Palestine. Only then will there be neither animosity nor hostility between the two of us. If you are determined to proceed with your emigration to our homeland with the intention of settling on the land of our birthright, our campaign for our inalienable rights will continue indefinitely.

Bassim Sarhan, Ph.D. Palestinian sociologist and writer in exile.
Translated into English by M.A.A.M. Sa'Adeddin, Ph.D. (Edinburgh), Palestinian linguist and poet in exile.

Letters to the editor

'Banking service in Kuwait not so bad'

SIR: I refer to Jadranka Porter's article on banking service in Kuwait on June 20 headlined "Appalling standards bemoaned." As a senior American banker leaving Kuwait after 6-1/2 years, I have to disagree firmly with the conclusions reached in the article based on the opinions of my American colleague.

Banking service in Kuwait is not as good as it could be but at Commercial Bank of Kuwait, and I am sure at other Kuwaiti banks, management and staff are working to improve it. Part of the problem is because the general public is uninformed as to what a bank can and cannot do. Banks must bear the interests of their shareholders in mind and must ensure that they do not lose money in providing unprofitable services to the public. However, in my experience the deposit and exchange rates provided to the banking public in Kuwait are much more competitive than those offered in Europe or the USA. For small deposits i.e. less than the equivalent of \$100,000 Kuwaiti banks' rates are at least 1/4-1/2 per cent per annum better than banks in Europe offer. US banks probably do not even know how to quote for a small deposit, current or savings account in any currency except dollars.

On foreign exchange, a client in Europe or the USA can expect to be quoted a rate which is at least 2 per cent away from the market. In Kuwait the difference between buying and selling rates is less than 1/2 per cent. I challenge my American colleague to match that spread in the US or Europe.

On letters of credit and letters of guarantee, commissions charged are among the most competitive in the world.

Getting back to service. Yes we would all like to improve it and "service with a smile" would be nice but it is not going to happen overnight. I wonder also whether my American colleague has had any recent experience of personal banking in New York City. I wonder if she has tried to open an account or cash a cheque drawn on an out of State Bank or a draft on a foreign bank or tried any service which requires service by an individual rather than by a machine. If he has I am sure he will agree that relatively speaking banking service in Kuwait is not so bad.

Richard K.O. Carey,
Gen. Manager,
Comm. Bank of Kuwait,
Kuwait.

Generation gap

SIR: I'm writing in regards to a recent article entitled "Official warns of deepening generation gap in Kuwait."

Some of the information was accurate and well-meaning, such as the comments of Sheikh Abdulla Al Sabah, Ghanim Al Saleh, and Ali Hassan; but the comments by a woman named Aisha Al Yahya are repugnant and must be addressed.

The "official" Miss Al Yahya obviously has a problem when it comes to the subject of marriage, in general, and Islamic jurisprudence on the subject of marriage, in specific.

Regarding her call to ban the marriages of Kuwaiti men to expatriate women, first of all, yes, Kuwaitis must be careful when marrying foreigners, to make sure that their outlook on life is the same, that the woman is either a Muslim, or that the man doesn't care how his children grow up, etc., at least they should agree on the subject, whatever the choice may be. To ban it altogether is not only unfair, and totally unIslamic, but also would never work in practice.

To know why such a law wouldn't work, we have to look at the reasons why Kuwaiti men marry foreign women, especially those who have converted to Islam. Why is this so? The foreign women, in general, do not demand exorbitant fees in dowry and gold, they do not have the same reputation as the local girls of being selfish, greedy, disobedient wives that go running home to mama every time they do not get their way, (this is an unfortunate reputation for those girls who do not act in that way, there are some out there, because those who act that way have ruined it for the good ones) when foreigners embrace Islam they take Islam as it is, without twisting it, and leaving out what they don't like. The foreigners often become some of the most committed Muslims anywhere. So it is clear that banning marriages to expatriate women will not solve the problem of "spinsterhood" in Kuwait, first the Kuwaiti women are going to have to change.

Further into Al Yahya's comments she criticises women who marry men who are already married, saying that it is an act of theft. May God forgive Miss Al Yahya for that comment, who is she to barter with the word of God? A real Muslim must take all of God's revealed religion as a whole — with the certainty that God knows better than we do about every matter. It is He who created us and He, in all His wisdom, who has given the women the right and privilege to marry on as a second, third, or fourth wife, thus blessing all women with a husband to love them and look after them, whereas one of them would either be alone, or she would be the "mistress" and thus have no rights at all.

Miss Al Yahya has no right to try force her opinion on anyone but herself, and it is she who will have to answer for it. To insult or accuse any man or woman who is acting upon Islamic injunctions (which she, herself, claims to be a good follower of) is really nerve.

Let the record stand corrected, and let's hope that Muslims will stop twisting Islam around to suit themselves, while at the same time claiming to be good believing Muslims.

Mia Pozzo,
Safat.

Red Cross

SIR: I write in reference to the recent letter of Mia Pozzo entitled "Afghan mujahideen" (AT, June 13, 1990).

I would very much like to know the source that was used as a basis for the allegations therein concerning the Red Cross organisation since I'm sure that they must be informed of the same.

Hitherto it had been my understanding that the Red Cross was offering only humanitarian and/or medical assistance. I had, no idea that other services described in some detail were available.

I feel obliged to point out that this assistance was, and is, commonly extended, under the most difficult of circumstances and situations. Numerous examples will, I'm sure, spring to the minds of countless people, not least, of course, to those people who have been helped by the Red Cross over many years.

This aid extended did not differentiate between race, religion or any other criterion. In spite of this their members have been kidnapped and murdered.

I think it would be helpful for the Red Cross to respond to this attack on their reputation and dignity and whilst I might be a little presumptuous to write on their behalf I believe that the right to reply is, after all, an inalienable right of all.

Richard Noble,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Communist Party exploiting young China scholars

BEIJING, (CSM): Communist Party hardliners are exploiting the "neo-conservative" credo of a group of young Chinese scholars in an effort to legitimise their ossified dictatorship.

Unlike the party's die-hard Marxist ideologies, the self-proclaimed "new" conservatives entertain no illusions of building a communist utopia.

Their priority, as ardent nationalists schooled in China's ancient history and literature, is to make the country rich and powerful while keeping it uniquely Chinese. Like proud Confucians of the late 19th and 20th century, they seek to preserve China's "essence" in the face of an invasion of Western ideas.

The shock of last spring's Tiananmen Square protests made allies overnight of China's "new right" and a Communist Party desperate to re-establish control.

Condemn

Like the party, neo-conservatives favour a gradual, cautious approach to political change. Calling themselves "cool headed," they condemn the students and intellectuals who led the democracy movement as "romantics," "radicals," or "nihilists."

China, they warn, is not ready for the adoption of "Western-style" democratic and capitalist systems, which they say would only plunge the nation into chaos.

The conservative scholars back the Communist Party, not as Marxists, but because they view it as the only organised force able to maintain order in China today.

Consequently, they argue that the army massacre of Beijing citizens last June 3 and 4 was justified to "save the nation."

"What happened on June 4 was hard to avoid," says He Xin, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and a widely published neo-conservative. "If the present government maintains its effective control," He adds, "the June 4 incident will be a very minor one in Chinese history."

Critics warn that conservative thinkers are so preoccupied with the perils of change that they fail to offer concrete solutions to China's problems. Instead, they blindly submit to party policies that are leading the country toward stagnation, and, ironically, deeper unrest.

Until June, neo-conservatives had survived only as an intellectual undercurrent in China; isolated and ostracised by the mainstream of students and scholars.

Intellectual debate in China was intense and forward-looking. Liberal scholars of the min-zhu pai (democratic faction) battled with "new authoritarians," backing then Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang over how best to hasten reform. New authoritarians sought to concentrate power in Zhao's hands to sweep aside obstacles to a free-market economy.

But Chinese at the forefront of those debates were jailed or forced into exile after the crackdown. Leaving neo-conservatives to dominate the intellectual spectrum. Under party patronage, conservative academics have made television appearances, published articles in official journals, and written memos to top leaders.

Tiananmen
Before the Tiananmen incident, my voice was very faint. It was suppressed by the professors," says Xiao Gangqin, an associate professor of Chinese history at Shanghai Normal University and a staunch neo-conservative.

"Now, my voice is stronger and stronger," the middle-aged scholar said with a smile.

Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin has privately praised Xiao's critique of Western democracy, China's so-called "crown prince" Deng Pufang and Chen Yuan — the influential sons of Chinese patriarchs Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun — share the political convictions of Xiao and other neo-conservatives, say Chinese sources.

In cultivating scholars like Xiao to justify its policies, the party is reverting to ancient Confucian statecraft.

Throughout history, literati have helped endow China's autocrats with legitimacy by advising them in the art of government. Rulers who lacked such learned advice, it was thought, risked losing their heavenly mandate and being overthrown.

Party leaders apparently believe younger conservatives like Xiao are less repugnant to China's disgruntled citizenry than the Maoist ideologues have gained prominence since June.

Especially unpopular are Maoist hold-overs like Wu Weicheng, Propaganda Department vice director, and Shao Huazhe, editor-in-chief of the party mouthpiece People's Daily. Both were active in ultra-leftist writing groups during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76).

The authorities want to promote some intellectuals whose political features are not that ugly and who can still deceive the masses," said a Chinese scholar on condition of anonymity.

At the heart of neo-conservatism is an emotional aversion to luan (chaos) and a deeply rooted yearning for incremental, harmonious change. After decades of warlordism, civil strife, and radical political campaigns, many Chinese fear another cycle of internal disintegration.

Many neo-conservative intellectuals experienced first hand the upheaval of the Cultural Revolution and other violent campaigns under Mao Zedong. Obsessed with stability, they contend that swift steps toward democracy and free enterprise would be disruptive for China.

Radical

"If reforms proceed in a radical way, we will have a second Cultural Revolution," says He, the CASS researcher. "China's future will be divided," says He, who likens multi-party politics to the internecine warfare of Mao's Red Guard factions.

With a backward, agrarian economy and widespread illiteracy among its population of 1.1 billion, China lacks a viable social foundation for the building of democratic institutions, the conservatives say.

In China, social relations are based on status, not law, says Professor Xiao, who contends that ancient autocracy has stifled the emergence of independent interest groups needed to make political pluralism succeed.

China's political culture, which is pervaded by a Confucian reverence for authority, would any "decisive role," argues Wang Huijing, of the International Politics Department at Shanghai's Fudan University.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bid to repay arms debts

Soviets, Arabs considering massive oil swap

CAIRO, June 20, (UPI): The Soviet Union is considering selling off billions of dollars worth of debts owed to Moscow for military hardware supplies to wealthy Gulf Arab states in exchange for oil, Egyptian oil industry sources said today.

Arab countries such as Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Sudan still owe the Soviet Union billions of dollars for

military hardware, and Moscow is keen to collect the debts quickly as one way of helping alleviate its current economic problems, the industry sources said.

They said Moscow, a major oil producer in its own right, would benefit from such a deal by selling the Gulf crude to third countries in exchange for hard currency, and also by estab-

lishing closer links with conservative, anti-communist Gulf Arab producers for the day when the Soviet Union becomes a net importer of crude.

"After a recent series of meetings in Moscow between Arab Chambers of Commerce and Soviet officials, one idea that gained prominence was for a number of Arab debts to be paid off in oil," one industry source told United

Press International.

Egypt alone owes the Soviet Union at least \$2.5 billion for military hardware, and debts from other Arab countries to Moscow are estimated to be between \$5 to 10 billion, according to Egyptian economists.

"But the whole scheme is still in a preliminary stage, and it would have to happen over a period of years," he

added. "Also, it would not only involve oil. The idea is to encourage Arab economic growth as well."

The economists pointed out that countries such as Iraq, which received large supplies of Soviet weapons during the 8-year-long Gulf war with Iran, were already exporting crude oil to Moscow.

Iraq was also exporting to the Soviet

Union tobacco products, car batteries and light industrial products. Egypt's exports to the Soviet Union include cosmetics, leather and textile products, furniture, citrus fruits, alcoholic products and footwear, and its imports include heavy industrial machinery.

The Saudis have expressed interest in investing in the Soviet Union, provided Moscow goes ahead and passes legislation to allow for the privatisation of thousands of Soviet public sector companies. Moscow plans to pass a new privatisation law later this year, and privatisation plans were expected to be implemented over a three year period.

Dollar firms and gold mixed

LONDON, June 20, (AP): The dollar rose against other major currencies in Europe today, but the currency traded in a narrow range in the absence of any major news.

Gold prices were mixed.

The dollar was helped by a warning from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that he might soon no longer be leader of the Communist Party, dealers said.

Gorbachev did not say if he might resign or if he expected to be ousted from the party job. Giving up that position legally should not affect his five-year term as president of the Soviet Union.

The news helped refocus market attention on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in general, including the potential negative economic ramifications of German unification.

That attention prompted a modest return of dollar buying and helped the dollar rebound modestly.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late yesterday:

1.6785 West German marks, up from 1.6712
1.4155 Swiss francs, up from 1.4100
3.6403 French francs, up from 3.6177
1.8878 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8800
1.2310 Italian lire, up from 1.2260

Gold rose in London to a late bid price of \$349.15 a troy ounce from \$348.25 late yesterday.

Kuwait backs Opec summit

Oil demand back at all time peak

KUWAIT, June 20, (Agencies): Kuwait yesterday backed a proposal for convening a summit conference of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to set a long-term policy for the organisation amid rising world demand for its oil.

A government spokesman said Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad has already relayed this stand to ambassadors of four Opec countries - Venezuela, Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, who cannot be named under government rules, said that the ambassadors conferred with Sheikh Sabah for "co-ordination concerning a visit by a delegation of Opec oil ministers in August to the organisation's member states."

The visit, the spokesman added, aims at "making preparations for the Opec summit."

The top-level meeting was first proposed about two years ago by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, whose kingdom is the world's largest oil exporter and a leading member of

Opec, recently said the time was ripe for the organisation to lay a long-term policy. But he neither supported nor rejected the call for a summit.

At present, Opec is struggling to restore its benchmark price of \$18 per barrel after violations of production quotas by some of its members led to a surplus on the oil market and forced prices to drop.

But Opec officials and independent oil experts have said that the crisis is only temporary because demand for its crude was on the rise.

Opec states hold more than two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves.

World oil demand is back matching the peak it reached in 1979 before high Opec prices caused it to slide.

British Petroleum Co PLC (BP) said today.

BP's statistical review of world energy, the release of which is a major event in the energy calendar, said demand for oil last year was back at nearly 65 million barrels per day.

But the rebound in oil demand from a 1983 low of 58 million was slowing, the giant multinational company reported.

Last year's rise of 1.5 per cent was

the smallest since 1986 when oil prices crashed from 28 to below \$10 per barrel.

A partial recovery in oil prices, less rapid global economic expansion and very warm weather were the leading factors behind a weaker rise in world-wide energy demand, BP said.

Steve Ahearne, BP's chief financial officer who introduced the statistical review to reporters, said that oil prices have weakened again this year with output by Opec (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) once more exceeding demand.

But BP sees a tighter market later in the 1990s, he said.

"Prices will remain volatile. Energy markets remain dynamic and difficult to predict."

World natural gas output reached a new record in 1989, up by 3.2 per cent. Demand for gas rose by four per cent, making it the fastest-growing fuel.

Ahearne said gas was increasingly favoured because it was regarded as less polluting than other fossil fuels. Gas now accounts for one fifth of world energy.

Pakistan possesses significant energy deposits

Domestic oil output surges

KARACHI, June 20, (Opecna): Pakistan has been credited with possessing significant and commercially exploitable energy resources in the form of hydro, natural gas, oil and coal, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF estimates made available here place the South Asian country's hydropower potential at 30,000 mw, of which only 3,000 mw has been developed with another 2,000 mw at an advanced stage of implementation.

Coal and lignite deposits are estimated at 900 million tonnes, though only 175 million

tonnes can be placed in the proven category. Despite the 118 million barrels of proven oil reserves and 18 trillion cu. ft. in natural gas deposits, the rate of exploitation is said to be "very low."

But even at the present rate of exploitation, warns the IMF report, the available reserves of crude and natural gas, unless augmented, will have run out in 1996 and 2030 respectively.

In order to meet domestic demand, Pakistan has been importing increasing amounts of

crude and petroleum products, apart from some quantities of coal.

Total imports of coal and petroleum products reached 7.9 million tonnes in 1988-89, up from 7.6 million tonnes in 1987-88.

The IMF report estimates that consumption of commercial energy has been growing by around eight per cent every year in the last decade, having reached 22 million tonnes in 1987-88. The figure is said to be one of the highest in the group of low-economy countries.

Japanese traders see oil prices falling

TOKYO, June 20, (Reuters): Japanese oil traders and industry officials expect oil prices to continue their slide until producers find a way to reduce oversupply.

"I hadn't thought prices would have fallen this far," a senior oil trader at a Japanese oil firm said.

"The market has been looking for a chance to rebound, but any rebound is unlikely unless supply

and demand are balanced," he added.

Far East quotes for widely traded Dubai crude oil for July delivery dropped to \$12.75/85 per barrel on Tuesday, compared with around \$15 in May.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the price of West Texas Intermediate grade for July delivery ended at an 18-month low of \$15.94 a barrel on Monday, down 68 cents from Friday.

The sharp decline was attributed to technical factors as well as the fundamental problem of overproduction by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), oil traders said.

Opec agreed on May 2 to cut production to just over 22 million barrels per day to defend falling oil prices, but overall Opec output is estimated at 23.2 to 23.6 million barrels per day.

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Plan to rescue Soviet economy

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): The Western world is battling time and major policy disputes to devise a plan to rescue the Soviet economy before Mikhail Gorbachev's reformist plans collapse for lack of outside help and strident opposition at home.

With less than three weeks before leaders of the seven biggest industrial democracies meet in Texas for their annual summit, policy makers have so far been unable to agree on even the broad outlines of a comprehensive aid package.

Their fears that the Soviet economy could collapse, weakening Gorbachev's grip on power and jeopardising a new era of détente, have in the past few days injected a new sense of urgency into the West's discussions.

But deep-seated differences are surfacing between the United States and Western Europe and the debate is further complicated not only by superpower politics but also by a fundamental question — will large-scale financial aid actually help Moscow?

Some economists say a move to mobilise financial aid now being discussed in some Western capitals could send the wrong signals to Moscow and instead of backing reform might in fact delay a sorely needed switch to a market economy.

"The suggestion that foreign financial aid now is going to be useful seems to be misguided," said Professor Richard Portes, director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London. "It might in fact be counter-productive in helping put off what some of the Soviet Union regard as the evil day of serious economic reform and structural change."

European Economic Community foreign ministers indicated yesterday that aid for the Soviet Union would be tackled on the agenda of next week's EEC summit in Dublin while the issue is likely to dominate July 9-11 talks of major industrial nations in Houston.

The most direct call for action has come from French President Francois Mitterrand, who, in a newspaper interview published today, signalled he wanted both summits to consider a large aid programme for Gorbachev.

Mitterrand warned of grave international repercussions if the Soviet leader failed to hold the country together.

"I intend to ask the forthcoming summits in Dublin and Houston to consider financial, commercial and technical aid for the USSR," he told the daily newspaper Le Monde.

Economists say leaders must first agree whether the Soviet Union qualifies for support by meeting the same conditions imposed on East European nations such as Poland and Hungary in their transition from central planning to free markets.

Only then can they go on to debate the form that help should take. The crucial issue is whether it should be limited to technical assistance or extended to direct financial aid.

French trade balance widens

PARIS, June 20, (Reuters): France's trade position deteriorated in May, the customs office said today, but French financial markets showed little reaction to a statistic which has become increasingly erratic.

France recorded a seasonally adjusted trade deficit of 5.68 billion francs (\$1 billion) in May, up from 4.38 billion (780 million) in April.

The provisional figures showed imports rising around 50 per cent faster than exports in May, mainly due to a higher energy bill.

Exports continued to suffer the delayed effects of a long strike at British Aerospace, a member of the four-nation Airbus Industrie consortium based in Toulouse.

Supplies of parts from British Aerospace were disrupted during the strike, which ended in March, and Airbus was unable to maintain the supply of fully assembled planes which count towards the French export total.

The customs office said Airbus sold three planes worth a total 940 million francs (\$170 million) in May against six planes worth 1.39 billion (250 million) in April.

"The impact of the strike delayed the delivery of wings all winter, and we can expect another two or three months of bad figures," said one French government bond dealer, explaining that the markets were well aware of this negative factor.

Harrods to open shop at Heathrow

HARRODS, the internationally famous London store, will open in July a 1,100 square metre tax free shop in Terminal Three at London's Heathrow Airport.

The shop will sell a wide range of Harrods perfume and cosmetics, clothes, fashion jewelry, china glass and toys.

CBK Monthly Monetary Review

Measures to activate economic momentum

SEVERAL monetary developments were witnessed in March 1990, in addition to the CBK adopted measures that had direct effect on local banks' activities. Some of these measures were related to rules and regulations for debtors to trade in their collateral assets at local banks, and rules and regulations for granting incentives to debtors.

These measures were in implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Economic Committee approved by the Council of Ministers on Dec 3, 1989 regarding proposed measures for activating the economic momentum in the country and developing the effectiveness of the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme, according to CBK Monthly Monetary Review.

The rules and regulations for debtors to trade in their collateral assets at local banks contained a definition of tradeable collateral assets as assets of debtors who are subject to the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme and have authenticated their settlement

agreements without any legal or judicial actions being taken against them.

These rules and regulations also explain trading in these assets such as buying and selling them or exchanging them for other assets to increase the return on them or improve their quality and reduce their risks.

Furthermore, these regulations specify those who are entitled to manage asset portfolios and how to manage them and evaluate their items, together with accounting procedures for trading. They also contain regulations for trading in guarantors' assets.

Thus the rules and regulations for debtors to trade in their collateral assets were set in such a way as to preserve banks' rights, as creditors, to the collateral and to allow debtors to develop and promote their collateral assets, a fact that would increase their cash flows and thereby expedite the settlement of their debts on the one hand, and increase the value of the assets and thus reduce the burden of the

state's bank support on the other.

However, the rules and regulations for granting incentives to debtors aim at urging these debtors to develop and promote their different activities and play their usual role in economic activity to their benefit and that of creditor banks and of the economic situation in general.

Moreover, the implementation of recommendations relating to the development of an incentive system for debtors of the Difficult Credit Facilities Settlement Programme will contribute to increasing the effectiveness of procedures resulting from implementing the recommendation allowing debtors to trade in their collateral assets.

These regulations define the incentive and the method of its calculation and paying out to them. They also define debtors entitled to receive incentives, distinguishing between debtors of natural persons and individual establishments or companies. They also contain regulations for guarantors' incentives.

As for major monetary and banking developments, the total aggregate balance sheet of local banks reached KD12,172 million at the end of March 1990, recording a slight decline of KD105 million (0.8 per cent) below its level in the previous month, yet exceeding its level in the corresponding month in the previous year by KD847 million (7.5 per cent). This slight decline is mainly due to the decrease in the balances of both local assets and liabilities.

Analysing the monthly changes in the balances of detailed items of these banks' aggregate balance sheet, it can be concluded that there is activity directed to local operations (59 per cent), exceeding that directed to foreign operations (41 per cent).

Among major developments in the items of local banks' balance sheet that can be indicated are the following:

■ An increase of KD41 million in the balance of credit facilities extended to residents by these banks. This increase does not reflect the actual growth in credit because of settlement movement

in the portfolio and the accumulation of interest. Furthermore, there were new loans to new customers and an increase in the limits of credit facilities to current customers during March 1990, both totalling KD30 million.

■ An increase of KD107 million (2.1 per cent) over the previous month in the balances of residents' deposits (government and private sector).

As for issues of public debt instruments, the Central Bank of Kuwait offered seven issues of treasury bills in March 1990 (issues No. 98, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105), totalling KD630 million. During the same month, four previous issues (from issue No. 81 to issue No. 84) matured, totalling KD595 million and leading the outstanding balance of treasury bills to increase by KD35 million over the previous month.

Furthermore, the CBK offered one issue (No. 99) of treasury bonds at a one-year maturity and an 8.5 per cent interest rate, totalling KD50 million. Meanwhile, a bracket of issue No. 6 and

a bracket of issue No. 7 matured, totalling KD60 million and leading the outstanding balance of treasury bonds to decline by KD10 million. This resulted in an increase of 1.1 per cent in the outstanding balance of public debt instruments (treasury bills and bonds) above its level in the previous month, to KD2,265 million.

Following are major developments in interest rates in the money market, the KD exchange rate and open market operations during March 1990:

■ Interest rates on KD interbank deposits rose on different deposit maturities at rates ranging between 1.03 per cent on one-week deposits (from 8.56 per cent to 8.65 per cent) and 1.37 per cent on one-year deposits (from 8.61 per cent to 8.73 per cent).

■ The KD exchange rate against foreign currencies improved. Except for its decline against US dollar (1.04 per cent), the KD increased against other major currencies at rates ranging between 4.14 per cent against the Japanese yen.

Delhi hopes to win contract

Iraq and India to revamp trade ties

BAGHDAD, June 20, (AP): Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said today his country and Iraq agreed to enhance their economic ties following an agreement to reschedule Iraq's debts to India.

Gujral also told reporters at Saddam International Airport before leaving for Bonn that he was very pleased at the results of the talks he held with President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. He gave no details.

Indian officials said Saddam and

Gujral discussed developments in the Arab world and the Indian subcontinent, a reference to the Arab-Israeli conflict and problems between India and its Muslim neighbour Pakistan over Kashmir.

Saddam told the Indian minister that problems in both regions should be solved through peaceful dialogue, the official Iraqi news agency reported.

Another major topic in Gujral's talks in Baghdad was India's hope to win the contract to build a \$6 billion railroad from Baghdad to the city of

Basra and other southern ports.

Diplomats said Iraq is in favour of granting the huge project to a consortium of international companies that could include Indian companies.

India is a major trade partner of Iraq, with exchanges of \$5 billion over the past decade.

Iraq agreed last March to reschedule its \$300 million debt incurred during the eight-year Gulf war with Iran.

It has already paid New Delhi \$85

million under the agreement. India has also extended \$50 million in credit lines to finance Iraq's purchase of Indian goods in 1990.

Gujral also met with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat and discussed with him the PLO's request for a meeting of UN representatives from the Non-aligned Movement to discuss the situation in the occupied territories.

A PLO official said Gujral renewed India's support for the PLO and the "Palestinian struggle against Israel."

Japan, Switzerland, US seen as most competitive nations

GENEVA, June 20, (Reuters): Japan, Switzerland and the United States are the most competitive industrialised countries on world markets, according to a study released today.

Among industrialising countries, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea were rated the most competitive in an annual report by the Lansanne-based International Institute for Management Development and Geneva's World Economic Forum.

Using 326 criteria such as labour costs and more nebulous factors like the socio-political climate, the paper tries to determine which countries enable businessmen to make and sell

the most attractive goods and services. "Terms of trade, industrial efficiency, economic growth, government involvement and education are among other aspects."

West Germany, benefitting from new markets opening up in Eastern Europe, moved up one step to replace Canada in fourth place among the developed countries.

Among the industrialising countries, listed separately because of difficulties of getting comparable statistics, Taiwan replaced Hong Kong in second place. Hong Kong's image suffered from China's crushing of the pro-

democracy movement last year and a mini-crash in its stock market.

Businessmen who were surveyed considered Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Italy and the United States to be slow in adapting their legislation to improve competitiveness, while West Germany and the Netherlands were seen as adapting quickly.

The survey ranked Hungary for the first time — the first East European country to be considered — but it was placed last among the 23 developed countries studied, behind Turkey and Greece.

External debt totals \$56.7b

Western donors pledge aid to India

PARIS, June 20, (Reuters): Western aid donors pledged to give India up to \$6.5 billion in aid for the 1990-1991 fiscal year, India's Finance Secretary, Bimal Jalan, said today.

He told reporters after a two-day donors meeting here chaired by the World Bank that he was satisfied with the amount despite the fact it showed little increase from the previous year.

"We are quite satisfied. We're aware of the budget constraints in some of the donor countries and we didn't expect more," Jalan said.

He said Italy, one of the 13 donors, would announce its contribution later in the year, which would bring the total amount close to last year's \$6.7 billion.

Jalan said France, the Netherlands, West Germany and Japan pledged higher amounts than in

past years, but did not give exact figures.

Of the total commitments, between \$2.75 and three billion will come from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's soft-loan affiliate, he said.

The 13 countries and other donors welcomed a drop in the number of Indians living below the poverty line.

"The smooth transition made after the recent elections, the continuity of development policies and programmes and commitment to prudent economic management were praised by members of the consortium," the donors said in a statement.

Jalan said 29.2 per cent of the population now lives below the poverty line, compared with 48.3 per cent in 1977-1978.

Trade talks could snag

TOKYO, June 20, (AP): Japan appears likely to follow through on promises made in trade talks with the United States, but conflicts over boosting public investment could delay a final agreement, officials say.

The two nations are drafting a final report on their year-long efforts — dubbed the structural impediments initiative — to reconcile business practices and policies in both countries that inhibit trade and investment.

Japanese officials have released and leaked to local media a flurry of proposals ahead of the resumption of talks, set for June 25 in Tokyo. Washington also is drafting measures to deal with structural economic problems in the United States, such as its federal budget deficit.

US officials say Japan's efforts to improve enforcement of anti-monopoly laws and to expedite customs clearance are encouraging, but they say disagreements over increasing public investment were "not encouraging."

During recent talks in Hawaii, officials made little progress on drafting a final SII report. The two nations hope to have the report in hand before leaders of seven major industrial nations meet July 9 for an economic summit in Houston.

In April, Japan agreed to open its retailing system, increase spending on public works projects, strengthen anti-trust legislation and loosen restrictions on foreign investment. The United States pledged to cut the budget deficit and encourage more savings and investment.

In response to complaints that it has so far done little to penalize Japanese business groups that close their markets to outsiders through unfair practices such as price-fixing and bid-rigging, Japan's fair trade commission has moved to beef up enforcement of anti-monopoly laws.

Further, he said, bearer bonds, which had in the past been issued to tackle the malady of black money, had degenerated into alternate currency in the hands of black money operators and the voluntary disclosure scheme too had failed.

Prof Dandavate also spoke out against the levy of agricultural income tax, saying that the income of farmers was not stable and depended upon the vagaries of the monsoons, even rich farmers had to opt for programmes like food-for-work.

The government was, therefore, considering schemes in which the accumulated black money could be used in some development activity, like housing for low income groups.

On an average, Prof Dandavate said, nearly Rs80,000 crores worth of black money was being generated in the country annually through various ways.

Prof Dandavate said the demand for gold in the country was 200 tonnes as against a production of more than two tonnes and recycling of 50 tonnes of old jewellery into new ornaments.

It is in this context that a committee, headed by Dr C. Rangarajan, deputy governor of RBI, had called for a review of the ceiling on aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the transfer-of-residence rules.

The finance minister said following the abolition of gold control Act, anti-smuggling operations would be intensified to curb the inflow of smuggled gold.

Prof Dandavate described as "unpragmatic" demonetisation as a means of curbing black money, demonetisation would not make a dent unless notes of Rs 100 and Rs 10 denomination were withdrawn from circulation and this was not practical.

Bonn to provide start-up aid

Currency union could cost 2m E. German jobs

BONN, June 20, (Reuters): Nearly two million jobs could be lost in East Germany after the currency and economic union between the two Germanys takes effect on July 1, West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said on Tuesday.

But he said job losses would be a short-term phenomenon, as many workers would be quickly retrained to do other work.

Haussmann told journalists that his government aimed to limit unemployment to a maximum of 10 per cent of the combined workforce in the two countries of around 37 million.

"Our goal would be that when the decision for German unity is made and we are thinking in all-German terms, total employment in Germany, on both German states ... should not be allowed to exceed the 10 per cent level," he said.

Seven per cent of West Germany's workforce, or 1.8 million people, were unemployed in May, so Haussmann's figures implied East German job losses

of nearly two million.

But he said: "This does not mean that 1.8 million in East Germany will be unemployed, but that numbers of people on this scale will be involved in retraining and qualification measures."

Job losses in inefficient state-run industries which were modernised or closed down would be offset by the expected creation of an estimated half a million new jobs this year in new small and medium-sized private companies.

"This is a transitional unemployment which will be associated with active training measures," Haussmann said.

West Germany would provide start-up aid for a new unemployment insurance system which should soon become self-financing when East German workers start paying regular contributions.

When East Germany was under communist rule, unemployment did not officially exist.

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Dimple Kapadia: raw deal. Above: in Kali Ganga.

Behind the screen

● The man alone is not to be blamed in the split in the marriage of Rajesh Khanna and Dimple. Those who knew Dimple in that period say she was very raw, arrogant, short-tempered and quarrelsome. She smoked and abused. Since he did not allow her to do films and time as well as money were in plenty, she indulged in gambling for hours and went out with youngsters to drink till late at night while Rajesh was busy shooting. No husband would have liked it in any case, even if he was an aging man married to a young beauty.

● Yet another "son" may rise on the horizon. Raj Kumar Kohli is making *Aulad Ke Dushman* to introduce his son Munish Kohli as a hero. Kohli is known for handling many stars at a time. The name and story implies that parents should not treat children like enemies. But of the son (with film) flops, then Kohli will be dubbed *Aulad Ka Dushman* and *Industry Ka Dushman*.

● Dimple was cheesed off with Ramsays and Raj Sippy. She took so much trouble and risks for *Kali Ganga*. But in the print publicity for release, Govinda's face was splashed with the caption: "Govinda in the greatest role of his career." When he was not even the film's hero but played Dimple's younger brother. "What's the use of doing woman-oriented films?" he grumbles.

● Gulshan Grover really grew bigger than his boots or rather his chest. For the Indo-Soviet *Shikari*, the Russians made him look bloated. Grover spread the rumor that he had taken the much trouble and risk to put on weight for the role. But a technician let out the secret. Grover had been given a special vest to wear below the shirt. This would expand in the right proportions and sides, when air was blown into it. So when Grover returned to India, he was really cut down to size, like a burst balloon.

● Rekha's marriage has started a chain reactions of the strange kind. She declared she married Mukesh Agarwal only because he had the courage to propose to her with: "Just say yes or no." Now many boys are warning up to propose to Sri Devi, Amrita Singh, Madhvi, Meenukshi Sheshadri etc. And on the flip side, some of the flop actresses are looking towards the North, especially Delhi, in the hope of catching the eyes of some rich businessmen, who may agree to marry them, while shutting the eyes about their past life or what is printed about them.

Mini Meet

Jaya seeks new look

Jaya Prada has the looks and the talent. But somewhere along the way, something went wrong and her career suffered. Some say her marriage to a married man came in the way; others say her brother has become a stumbling block. Now, she has switched from stereotypical characters to play different types of roles. In this interview, she discusses some factors affecting her career.

JAYA PRADA, it is being widely believed you're treating reporters badly: ignore them or resent them on the set?

Not all. Some are sensible and decent enough to take an appointment, come during my free time and write in a civilised way. But others are just out for cheap sensation and distort words. Once during shooting, when I was worked up for a difficult scene, a lady gossip writer pestered me to answer silly questions. I lost my temper then.

Perhaps you are avoiding some unpleasant questions, like about your brother and one famous director's daughter?

Don't people fall in love and get married? Don't parents have



Jaya Prada: breaking away from stereotypical image

the right to oppose if they don't like it? But things settle down in time. If you make a scandal out of it, things get worse. *Raja Babu* has also been a thorn in your side...

That is what bad scribes make people believe. The say it. As if they are all present when Babu and I talk. It's nonsense. He has his own career and also helps mine.

If women dares on screen are not preferred. You know how Dimple and Amrita tried. Then why did you take up this *Zakhmi Zameen*, with a strange dress and all?

An artiste yearns to break away from a fixed image. Producers thought I am good only for a domestic roles, weeping, sacrificing and wearing the same one dozen saris. I wanted to show I can be different. That's why I am doing my own stunts in this

film. I even shot in a stable full of dirty animals. And the biggest change, my hero is Aadiya Pancholi.

Will the audience accept you?

Every well-made effort is accepted and appreciated. Is it a bid to be mad and sexy?

Modern yes, in outward appearance. But no needless or shameful exposure. That's not my cup of tea.

What happened to your own production *Sawan Ka Muhina*?

I slowed down due to my hectic work on other projects. I know it has suffered. Moreover, it's not a formula film. I could have easily made that. But I preferred this story. I will complete it very soon.

Have you resigned to Amitabh being a flop, whatever films he does?

Of course not. Just watch out our films like *Aaj Ka Arjun* and *Indrajit*.

Sanjay Dutt: "After seeing those three heroes in women's swimsuits and wigs I am glad I did not take up Anil Sharma's *Tahelka*. How would I have looked as a woman?"

Anil Kapoor: "I am not waging any personal war with Amitabh Bachchan. Of course, if we confront each other on screen, then it will be a regular battlefield."

Rekha: "My marriage was God's doing. I am sure of it. After all, I am the chosen one. He always made me live differently."

Anupam Kher: "Of course awards are important. Any actor saying otherwise is a case of sour grapes. Even Jeetendra was thrilled when some association gave him an award for *New Delhi*."

Shabana Azmi: "I got more money from one *Rukhshana* than *Pestoni*, *Sati*, *Pienic* and *Ek Din Achanak* put together."

Indian Cinema

Ego-struck disasters

By Fiorenzo Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

IF there is one common factor to stalled or shelved films it is ego conflict. Ego seems to have become so delicate that it is bruised by a minor remark or trivial action which may be unconscious or unintended. But the hurt ego wreaks vengeance.

One example is *Indradhanush* launched with much fanfare and bugle-blowing. It was to be the prestige combination of producer Salim director Raj Sippy and hero Sanjay Dutt. But cracks began to appear on the matter of script, character and heroine. Loyalties were suspected, if the producer or director booked other stars for other films. Fed up, poor Salim, recovering from the *Batwara* blow, folded *Indradhanush*. When last seen, he was trying to persuade Mithun to start a film, with him.

It also happened to *Darpok* and jeopardised the future of debut-making director Sandip, son of veteran Hrishikesh Mukherji. Here, the ego hassle was not between the stars Sanjay Dutt and Dharmendra but between producer Dinesh Bansal and financier Anil Agarwal. They started out as best friends but, somehow along the way, they fell out. The tragedy is that the film is nearly complete and booked for all areas. But Agarwal does not allow it to be released and wants his money back. The producer is prepared for settlement but he won't agree. Deadlock.

Stars bestow favours on some and give step-motherly treatment to others. But Vinod Khanna harassed all but one producer; he has a soft corner for *Muqaddar Ka Badshah*. That's why the film was shot fast and confidently publicised in video cassettes etc. It was sold out for all zones within three months. Viju Shah's song *Locha Locha* is supposed to go one better over "Oye Oye."

What's so special about it? It's a Southern production directed by T. Rama Rao, written by the famous Parchuri Brothers, the music by the *Oye Oye* man Viju Shah. It's a remake of a Telugu super-hit: "What's it about? Vinod is an honest underdog. His sister Suparna Anand loves Aasif, the son of a rich lawyer Anupam Kher. His client Amrish Puri wants his daughter to marry Aasif.

To make matters worse, Anupam's daughter loves Amrish's bad son Tej Sapru and becomes pregnant. Amrish allows their marriage but forces the advocate to make his illegal deal. Vinod loves Vijayashanti but their union has to wait. Meanwhile, Anupam's wife Shabana Azmi has already arranged for son Aasif to marry Suparna. But the villain plans her destruction. The hero uses his wits and fists to destroy the gang.

Nothing is new about the action-cum-revenge film; the trend also going out of vogue. But Vinod thought it will prove lucky for him. Perhaps he saw something like Amitabh's *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar* in it. Or, as the unit birds whisper, his real soft corner was for heroine Vijayashanti and her lovely friendship. The girl has not progressed after *Eeshwar* and Vinod was very keen to promote her Hindi film career. Strange inter-linking.

While industry folks and film fans are crowding about "return to romance," there is another trend coming in quietly. Around four dozen films have been started with young love as the focal point. But a few have also begun to bank on music and comedy, with romance, of course, as a vital side track. Anyway it means "goodbye to violence." And perhaps the Filmistara era of musical-comedy romances like *Shelna* and *Sargam* may come back.



Ego clash spells the doom of Darpok. Above: Sanjay Dutt and Karwaljeet in a scene from the film.

Romance returns



Vinod Khanna and Vijaya Shanti in *Muqaddar Ka Badshah*.

Nick Nolte

Soul-searching

By Frank Durham

HIS Hollywood hell-raising days are over and now Nick Nolte is putting all his energy into his movie roles. And the blonde blue-eye actor will stop at nothing to get a character right.

For his role in the hit comedy *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*, Nolte lived for two weeks on the streets of downtown L.A., unwashed and drinking and sleeping with local vagrants.

Big muscles were called for when Nolte played an ex-con opposite comedian Martin Short in *Three Fugitives*. So Nick, 49, spent months building up his muscles in order to be able to swing co-star Short around like a rag doll.

Perhaps a little more painful was the time he spent in the jungles of Borneo, preparing for and then filming *Farwell To The King*...he ended up in hospital after crippling attacks of jungle fever, typhoid and hookworm.

And for his role as a painter in Martin Scorsese's segment of *New York Stories*, Nolte studied art history and learned to paint.

In his latest movie, Nolte plays a larger-than-life hero of the New York City police force under investigation for killing a Hispanic dope dealer. And for his role of L.T. Mike Brennan in the bizarrely titled *Q & A*, Nolte and co-star Timothy Hutton spent several weeks going out on calls with police officers from Manhattan's 34th Precinct — one of the busiest in the city seeing everything from domestic disputes to homicides.

"My character Mike Brennan is a pretty rough character a powder keg" says Nolte. His prejudice...and his madness...come from self-loathing and self-disgust. The hard part about playing a character like this is having to live with the hate and the fear. You have to dig deep and search your own soul in areas you wouldn't ordinarily have to deal with."

Nolte, a born rebel, only discovered acting after dropping out of college at 22. He worked on the stage until the TV mini-series *Rich Man, Poor Man* shot him to fame in 1976. He then made his big-screen debut opposite Jacqueline Bisset in *The Deep*. Now the man who turned down the title role in *Superman* can demand \$3 million a movie.

Notorious for his drunken binges and exploits, Nolte sobered up back in 1984 when he married wife Becky. He says now: "I have drunk my fair share and done my fair share of drugs.



Nick Nolte plays a large-than-life cop, under investigation for murder, in the latest film *Q & A*.

"I've found the right woman, I'm a father for the first time. That's what slowed me down. I've changed mostly through age. I'm no longer on self-destruct. It's good to slow down."

Before he met Becky, who is 19 years his junior, Nolte's exploits included spending five weeks in a warehouse and riding naked on his motorbike up and down the main Malibu road. And during the Vietnam war, he was selling counterfeit draft cards... an escapade for which he got five years' probation.

And in 1978 he was hit with a \$5 million "palimony" suit.

Now the Noltes live quietly in Becky's home town of Charleston, West Virginia, with their three-year-old son Brawley.

"It takes a unique individual to begin with. To marry an actor," says the 6ft 2in actor. "Mostly because of the gypsy lifestyle. It can be difficult, but we have no problems with it."

"I take my wife and son everywhere I go. I don't find it interferes with my work at all. It keeps me out of bars. Not that it's important to keep out of bars — it gives me an alternative. There's not much more to do in that other part of my life. It was a well-worn road to a dead end. This is the last shot I'll have at a normal family life."

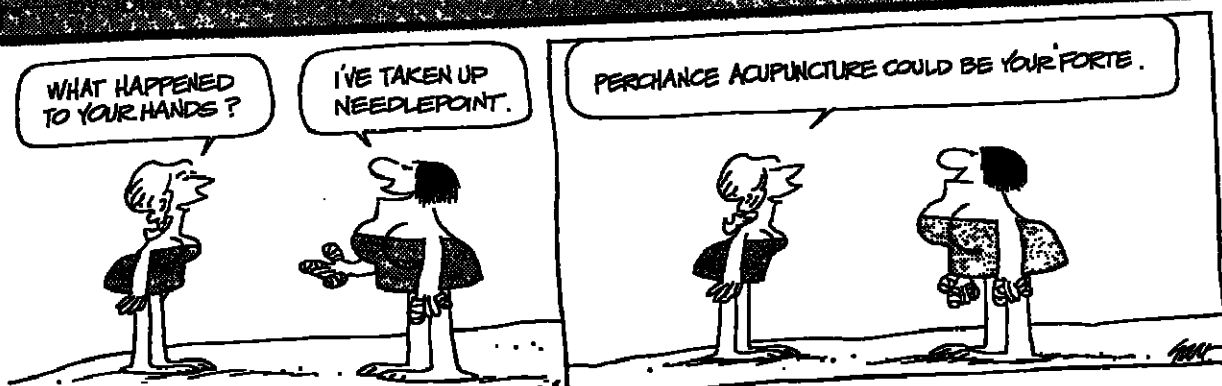
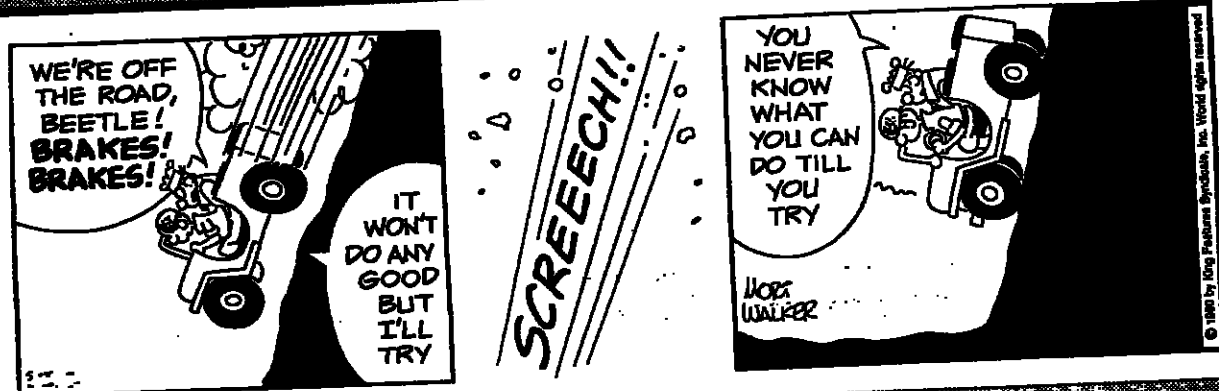
Nolte and Becky are hoping for more children but he says sadly, "we've lost two. We'll try to have another one but it's rather tricky. We have a little blood discrepancy."

He says of the miscarriages: "I'm an actor and maybe I'm melodramatic, so I may have exaggerated a little — but something like that makes you question your whole life. You don't know if something like that happens because of your past sins. Everybody thinks that maybe God is getting at them at times like that, and I'm not sure that isn't the truth. I did a lot of praying."

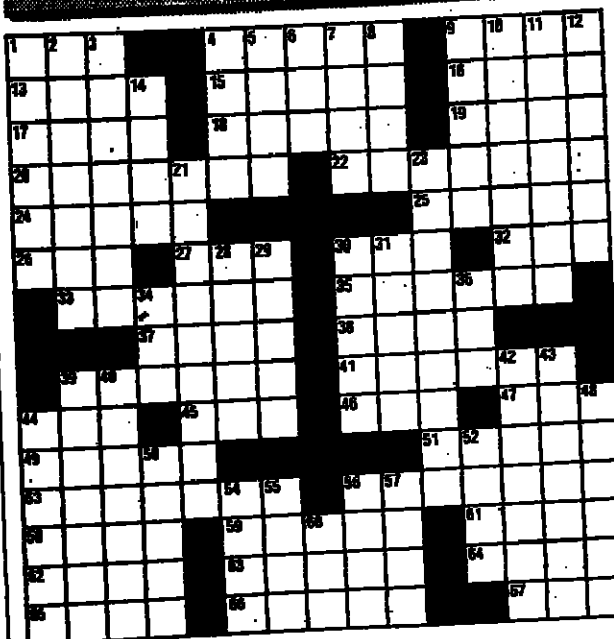
But it would seem the hell-raising star has found real happiness with Becky and Brawley. On hearing of the marriage, actress Katharine Hepburn who had previously called Nolte "an illiterate, ill-mannered, inconsiderate piece of crap" sent the new Mrs Nolte a note reading: "I'm glad to see that virtue has finally conquered wicked Nick!"

LEISURE

BLONDIE



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Sea inlet
4 Punt propeller
9 Actor Richard
13 Show pleasure
15 "Il Trovatore," e.g.
16 Part of U.S.A.
17 Hindu fire god
18 Boy Scout badge
19 Mona —
20 Persians' steas?
22 Connected series of writings
24 Anchor position
25 Ancient, old style
26 RR stop
27 Place for peas
30 Embassy resident: Abbr.
32 Actor Beatty
33 Lost
35 Gentlemen's gentlemen
37 Alleviate
38 Sun disc
39 Pluckier
41 Respected counselor
44 Elevation: Abbr.
45 Drafting org.
46 Refrain syllable
47 Kitchen need
49 State of NE
51 Greek coin
53 Small flowering tree
56 Sailing vessel
58 Star in Pegasus
59 Church instrument
61 Bone: Comb. form.
62 Greek commune
63 Creep cautiously

DOWN

- 64 —do-well
65 River of W Germany
66 Book of the Bible
67 Dental deg.
1 Barana fibers
2 Event for 56
3 Mystical formulas
4 Circumstance's companion
5 Eastender's wishes
6 Celtic Neptune
7 Author Ambler
8 Pro —
9 Greek physician of old
10 Lofty
11 Used-car lot transactions
12 Voided a tape
14 Kind of skirt
21 Rating
23 Common condiment
28 Watering places
29 Color changers
30 —garde
31 Alma —
34 Pro —
36 Tolkien tree
39 Harvested
40 One —: singly
42 Contrary
43 Spun
44 Agree
48 Spuds
50 Johnson of Olympic fame
52 Black, to a poet
54 Elegant
55 One of the Guthries
56 Sugar —
57 Singer Paul
60 Fighting men, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ABCD FORD AQUA
RAZES APER PUTS
ABASH NAVY LOUS
BARKUP THE NOTRE
NRA ADAMANT
GOOUTONALIMB
AXILS NEVE JAR
TEEN ASIDE MULE
ENS ACHT TINGE
OVERANIEWLEAF
ACQUIRE DRI
BOUND WRONGTREE
ERIC ODIN GROAN
LACE ELSE YEAST
ELKS RYES TRES

WHICH WAY TO GO?

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ 9 2
♦ J 9 7 4
♣ A 10 5 2

EAST
♠ 6 4
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ Q 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 9 7 3 2
♥ Void
♦ 6 3 2
♣ K J

The bidding:
West North East South
4 ♥ Pass Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass 5 ♥ 5 ♠
Pass 6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♥
The late Lew Mathe often said guess? Not at all. To make his ambitious that the only good slams were those that made. By that yardstick, six spades was an excellent slam! North's raise to six spades was rather optimistic—had he chosen to bid at all an immediate five spades would have been more logical. North should have realized his partner was bidding under pressure and the two tricks he was delivering might be needed just to make game.

West led the ace of hearts and declarer heaved a sigh of relief when he saw dummy—North-South had just dodged the deadly diamond bullet, which would have netted the defenders three fast tricks. With the help of some luck and excellent technique, declarer wrapped up his slam in short order.

After ruffing the opening lead, declarer drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, then led a club to the jack. When that held, declarer cashed the king of clubs, crossed to the table with a trump and played the ace of clubs for a diamond discard. When the queen of clubs dropped, declarer was able to discard another diamond on the ten of clubs and bring home his slam for the loss of a diamond trick.

Declarer had a two-way club finesse. Was South's decision to play East for the queen just a lucky



Avoid becoming involved in anything that is really no concern of yours. On the other hand make sure that you meet your commitments. Do not do anything that you feel is not right. Be consistent.



Your principles will be tested and you should not abandon them. Something that you thought would be easy will not be. However, you should make the extra effort—it will be worth it. Be thankful.



You are liable to get caught up in technicalities and should not lose sight of the purpose behind them. You will feel nervous and should try to keep calm in the face of provocation. There is room for more optimism. Be cordial.



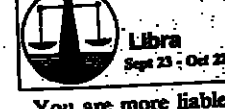
You will not be in the best of moods at first but something will happen to cheer you up. You will have good reason to be genuinely pleased... Do not forget that your children are growing up. Be true to your word.



You will tend to be a little clumsy and should accordingly make a bit of extra care. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 46. Do not leave to others what you well know you should do for yourself. Make sure you are in the right attire for the weather and occasion. Be enterprising.



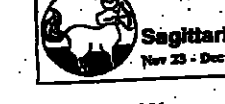
A tendency to leave until later what should be done now must be combatted. A new gadget will not live up to its promise fully, but nor will it be utterly useless. Take care to avoid exposing yourself to infection. Be resolute.



You are more liable to lose or mislay things, and should take special precautions. If you try to use force where charm and persuasion have not succeeded you will only make matters worse. Avoid allowing others to make the first move. Be generous.



You are liable to encounter a rather aggressive person, try to avoid having a confrontation. Make sure you do not do anything you well know is unlawful. And remember that a clear conscience is easy to live with. Be discreet.



You should leave your partner in no doubt about your love and affection. And avoid doing anything you know he would not agree with. Concentrate on what is most urgent leaving secondary matters until later. Be considerate.



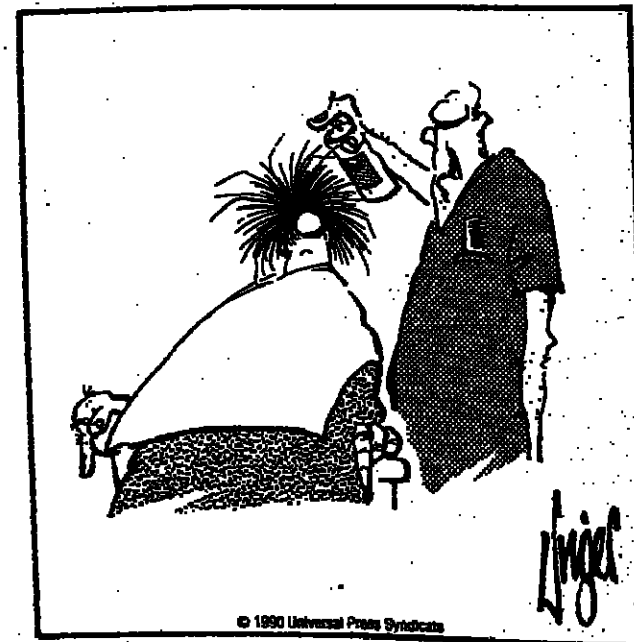
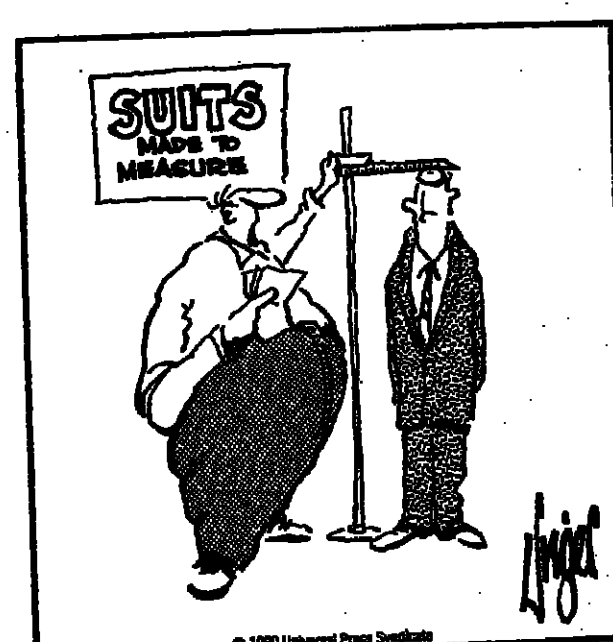
There will be a lot to do and you must not allow thoughts of what remains to be done to put you off your stride. Make sure you do not leave any taps etc. turned on, particularly when you leave home. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be abstinent.



You will be able to effect a reconciliation with a friend from whom you have become estranged. Do not love less even if you feel less loved. Make sure you do not break a promise and that you meet your commitments. Be more flexible.



To stay on good terms with your children treat them the age they are. Do not permit work to be your sole concern—if you do you will become a bore not only to others but also to yourself. Eat just enough to maintain the weight you would like to be. Be affectionate.



Triumphs and tragedies of the fabulous Getty dynasty



A star is born: Paul Balhazar.

By Rupert Butler

ONE of the world's most tragic, eccentric and fabulously wealthy dynasties has a new face in the spotlight.

He is 15-year-old Paul Balhazar Getty and already there are signs he could become as ruthlessly successful as his late great-grandfather, super-rich Jean Paul.

When he died in June 1976 aged 84, miserly, reclusive Jean Paul — the most celebrated Getty of them all — was reckoned to be worth four billion dollars, a fortune that had sprung from hundreds of millions of gallons of oil.

And the signs are that more than a little of it courses through the veins of Paul Balhazar, a young actor who has boosted his earnings from appearing in the new film of Lord of the Flies by selling gullible younger members of the cast such things as conch shells for \$70 each when they were worth a mere five dollars.

He has bragged of his achievement. "We ripped off the little kids," he said. They thought it was the best deal of the century.

Best deals have always been Getty goals but, although successive members of the family have been showered profusely with millions of dollars, all generations have been stalked by conflict and disaster.

The first significant Getty conflict dates from 1913 when 21-year-old Jean Paul joined father George Franklin Getty's Oklahoma oil company. Years later, he maintained: "Anyone who thinks this was nepotism can forget it."

"My father insisted I should prove my business acumen before I was given responsibility."

Inevitably there were disagreements between the cautious George Franklin and his hot-tempered, impulsive son. George had struck rich with oil in the obscure village of Bartlesville, eventually the hub of Oklahoma.

Jean Paul had wanted to develop a seemingly unpromising area of "red dirt" farmland where he was convinced there was oil. George refused to let him and was infuriated when his son went ahead anyway, buying share in the lease on the land.

Within months, it gushed oil. Jean Paul sold out, taking \$11,850 as his share of the profits. George Franklin, a bad loser, had to relent and put his son on the board of his company, struggling. "Luck plays a big part in business."

There was to be more luck... World War One broke out. It was fought by mechanised transport, both on the ground and in the air. The price of oil gushed as high as the Getty wells.

George Franklin died in 1930 but he made his opinion of his son known from beyond the grave. The bulk of his \$15.5 million fortune was left to his formidable wife Sarah, who drove a notoriously hard bargain. She finally



Jean Paul Getty only mixed with the top people.



The atrocious Getty luck has haunted Jean Paul III. Kidnapped and mutilated in his teens, he's now paralysed from a drug overdose.

"When you look at what happened to the Gettys, it is hard not to conclude that money had been like a curse to them."

parted with her interest in the company for \$4.5 million.

Jean Paul knew that, for the company to become a true contender for world class, he had to have a Middle East stake. He fixed his sights on a small area the giants ignore, the so-called Neutral Zone.

It was a wedge-shaped 2,200 square miles of desert, bounded on the north by the kingdom of Kuwait, on the east by the Arabian Gulf and on the south by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

After four years Jean Paul made a gargantuan strike, doubling his personal wealth and the value of the company shares.

He also managed, in his time, to fit in five marriages and claim in an uncharacteristic flush of candour in old age to have had 100 mistresses. But few of his relationships brought him any happiness.

Family bitterness erupted when he eloped to Ventura, California, with 18-year-old schoolgirl Jeanette Demont. Within months of the marriage, Getty was escorting other women to Los Angeles nightspots.

The marriage was disastrous and short-lived. None of his succeeding wives cared for his roving eye — in a New York nightclub, for example, it had alighted on another 18-year-old, a singer named Louise Dudley "Teddy" Lynch who became wife no. 5.

In 1946, it looked as though Jean Paul might at last be granted some happiness. His son by "Teddy", Timothy Ware, was born prematurely in California.

For once tearing himself away from

business in Tulsa, Getty rushed to Los Angeles only to be told by the doctors that the child was frail and anaemic with a developing brain tumour.

Throughout his brief life, Timothy only knew his father as a voice over the trans-Atlantic telephone. After what should have been a minor operation, the boy — completely blind — died at the age of 11 in a New York hospital.

Jean Paul, if he felt emotion, was incapable of expressing it. In his diary he wrote simply: "Funeral bill for darling Timothy."

In the following years, the old man pinned all his faith and hope in George Franklin Getty II, his son by Jeanette Demont. Here seemed to be a Getty in an acceptable mould: a pillar of sober, dark-suited respectability as President of the Tidewater Oil Company, one of Jean Paul's acquisitions. The truth was rather different — George Franklin was a violent alcoholic.

In June 1973, the elder Getty took a call in London from one of his Los Angeles aides. George Franklin, his father learned, had collapsed during a late-night barbecue at his Bel Air mansion. Death was from an overdose of alcohol and barbiturates.

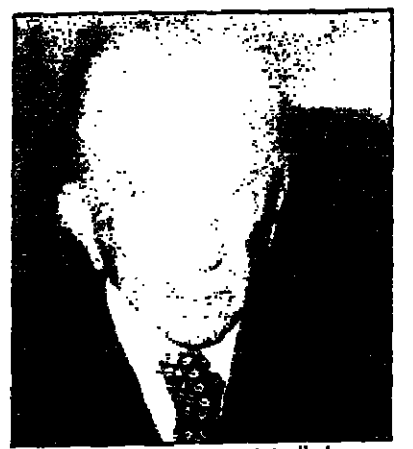
Even now, what seemed to be a curse on the Gettys was by no means lifted. Jean Paul Getty Jr. (known as Eugene), son of the senior Jean Paul's marriage to Hollywood actress Ann Rork (his fourth), had lost little time in turning his back on the oil business and hitting the hippie trail, eventually holding up in a Moorish castle in Marrakesh, experimenting with drugs and entertaining the Rolling Stones. A similar lifestyle was led by Eugene's beautiful, red-headed Dutch actress wife Talitha Pol.

Wild parties were held in a Rome apartment with a living — room containing a giant birdcage, two elephant chairs and a shrine to Buddha. Eugene found his wife lying unconscious beside him in bed when he woke one mid-day. An ambulance winding through the narrow streets of Rome rushed Talitha to the Villa de Rosario Clinic where heart massage failed to revive her from a heroin overdose.

Eugene was not to be left alone. The next victim of the curse of the Getty was Eugene's son, Jean Paul III, by his first wife Gail Harris. The youngest Jean Paul was seized by a Calabrian gang during the summer of 1973: they promptly demanded a ransom from the Gettys of one million dollars.

There were accompanying threats of violence. On November 10, 1973, a package posted 20 days earlier in Naples and delayed in the mail was finally delivered to the offices of the Rome newspaper Il Messaggero. It contained the kidnap victim's right ear.

A reluctant Jean Paul Getty I was eventually persuaded to pay the ransom money. But he made it a loan to Eugene, with a rumoured eight per



The man who started it all: Jean Paul Getty

cent interest.

In 1977 plastic surgeons at Stanford University Medical Centre restored the ear, using cartilage cut from Jean Paul's ribs. But the psychological damage seemed beyond repair: excessive drinking contributed to a stroke that was to leave him blind and paraplegic. His marriage to a German girl, Giselle Martine Zucker — their actor son, Paul Balhazar, is the latest of the Gettys to grab the headlines — broke up.

As for Eugene, his reaction was to become a recluse, locking himself away in a number of London houses, including his main base in fashionable Cheyne Walk off Kings Road, Chelsea. An exception was to turn up at his father's funeral in 1976, wearing white sneakers and escorting Bianca Jagger.

He starts the world from time to time by giving money away. A lot of it. Gifts have varied from \$5 million to Britain's National Gallery to £20,000 for families of British miners and £70,000 for AIDS research.

Family fury and bitterness surrounded Jean Paul I even in death. In 1974 he had built the sumptuous Getty Museum as a repository for art treasures in Santa Monica. There were claims that he had been too ill to be responsible for disposing of his money.

As he lay dying of Parkinson's Disease, Jean Paul I cut himself off from his family and his faithful companion was glamorous socialite Mrs Penelope Kitson, an old friend. She looked after Jean Paul at Sutton Place, his country estate near London. She was remembered generously in his will. Many of Getty's other girl friends, hopeful of being remembered, were disappointed.

As for the family, 226 squabbling heirs eventually agreed to share £600 million after the taxman had taken one billion.

Attorney William Newsome, a childhood friend of Eugene, made the comment: "Honestly, when you look at what happened to the Gettys, it is hard not to conclude that the money had been like a curse to them."

The face is new but the name is synonymous with wealth; but a curse seems to hang over this amazing family. Can Paul Balhazar Getty, a star at 15, avoid it?

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: A few months ago, I went to the doctor because I was having headaches and felt dizzy. I also got tired and short of breath easily. She told me that I had high blood pressure and prescribed some medication, which I've been taking every day just like she told me to. I feel much better now, but the doctor said I should keep taking the medicine anyway. Why?

ANSWER: It can be hard to understand why you have to take medicine when you don't feel sick, but your doctor is right. Most people who need medication to control their high blood pressure will have to take it indefinitely. Your symptoms are not a reliable guide to your blood pressure.

In fact, one of the biggest problems with hypertension is that most people don't have any symptoms at all, especially in the early stages of the disease. That's why hypertension is called the "silent" killer. It's possible that you had elevated blood pressure for some time before you started having symptoms.

Even if you feel normal, untreated hypertension puts a strain on your heart, blood vessels, brain and kidneys. The heart has to work harder to pump blood against abnormally high blood pressure. This extra work can make the heart's walls thicken, and the heart itself can become enlarged, and eventually stop working.

In the brain, the blood vessels begin to stretch. If they get too weak, they may burst, causing a "stroke" or cerebrovascular accident. A stroke can cause various degrees of paralysis. The kidneys also can suffer, because their tiny arteries are damaged by high blood pressure. The kidneys can stop filtering out waste products from the blood, resulting in sickness and even death.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IS 'SILENT' KILLER

These problems can develop, and cause major organ damage, without causing any noticeable symptoms. Luckily, this damage can be prevented if blood pressure is controlled. However, if treatment is stopped, the blood pressure usually goes back up.

The key to successful blood pressure control is your co-operation as a patient. You should take medications exactly the way they are prescribed. It is important to see your doctor at regular intervals so he or she can check your progress and adjust your treatment if necessary. You should also follow your doctor's recommendations about diet, exercise and lifestyle changes. Sticking with the treatment plan can add many healthy, happy, and comfortable years to your life.

QUESTION: I have a problem that seems to be destroying my toenails, and I'm looking for a quick solution before they completely disintegrate. The nails are thick and dull, and there is a lot of junk under them. Do you know what this is and what I can do to stop it?

ANSWER: It sounds like a type of onychomycosis (fungal infection of the nails) to me, sometimes called "tinea unguium" or "ringworm of the nails." This can occur when certain fungi called "dermatophytes," which only attack the dead tissues of skin, nails and hair, infect your toenails. The most common type is usually of the Trichophyton family. It might also be a candida infection or the result of psoriasis. You need to be certain as there are specific treatments available when the cause is clear, griseofulvin for trichophyton, for example. However, there is no quick fix. It will take time before the infection can be conquered and your new nail can grow out.



Princess Diana's smile reveals her shy personality.

Loving or ruthless? It's written all over your face

By Alex Molloy

Rambo and Rocky star Sylvester Stallone's multi-million-dollar success story will be no surprise to anyone who understands faces. The hunky actor's head is very wide between the ears, revealing a good business sense combined with a stubborn streak.

Actress Felicity Kendal is a good communicator, has ambition and a romantic spirit. You can tell by her prominent and curved cheeks — and not the ones that got her voted Rear of the Year some time back!

Baldness indicates a self-assertive character who can't stand failure. Kojak star Telly Savalas is a shining example.

And the smiles of Joanna Lumley and Princess Diana show good-natured exuberance and shyness respectively. A broad and open smile like Joanna's can easily turn into laughter. Di reveals only her upper teeth, a sure sign of a shy personality.

The ancient Chinese art of face reading is explained in a new book which shows how to read character from a person's looks by studying the eight basic shapes — round, diamond, rectangular, square, triangular, wide jaw with narrow forehead, wide forehead with square chin, and the prominent cheekbone look.

The individual face should be divided into three main areas, says author Dr Li Tao. The first is the forehead. This shows the mental characteristics, the size and shape shows if the person is intellectual or creative. The middle zone — the area from the top of the eyebrows to the bottom of the nose — is linked with the feelings. The area from nose to chin shows the will and the roots of the personality.

The low and protruding brow of Queen Victoria revealed a strong and stubborn nature and the prominent ridge above her eyebrows showed energy and dynamism.

Watch out for a forehead with lots of bulges. This indicates a dynamic person with a passionate and sometimes even violent temperament.

And if you are seeking a lasting relationship think twice before becoming involved with a partner whose forehead is straight and perpendicular. This character craves freedom and grasps at opportunities, so you might not be sure of their faithfulness or staying power.

Jackie Onassis is a classic example of a face with a wide jaw and narrow forehead. She is highly competitive and usually ends up getting her own way.

The eyes — "the windows of the soul" — are the most expressive part of the face but the eyebrows often hold a special message too.

Hollywood legend Joan Crawford, who battled to

stay at the top for a quarter of a century had powerful and well-marked eyebrows. They revealed a true love of success and an indomitable spirit.

The widely-spaced eyebrows of gorgeous Audrey Hepburn show a warm nature and a happy temperament. This has been evident from her screen heyday in the Fifties and Sixties to her current work on behalf of Third World children with UNICEF.

People with big eyes often have a combative, exuberant nature that can burn up energy. Their owner has a romantic, dreamy nature.

Small eyes indicate a curious disposition and the owner could be an unfaithful lover because of the need for new experiences.

The best way of finding out about the temperament and personality is to examine the nose. Long ones mean an ambitious character who is proud and sensitive.

Small noses indicate someone prone to unpredictable outbursts of anger. But the owners are also imaginative and talented, pleasure seekers who act on the spur of the moment.

Aquiline noses belong to people who are normally unlucky in love but have a nervous, imaginative, intelligent and creative temperament.

Like the eyes, the mouth can convey personality almost immediately. If you want a passionate and romantic lover, go for a partner with full fleshy lips. Thin lips show logic and self-control: a sexy pout means a wilful and stubborn character who could be hard to please.

Broad chins point to strong-willed and selfish types, while a narrow chin indicates a delicate, sensitive and hesitant nature.

But if you want a real insight into personality, the key is to study the head. An over large head means stubbornness and inflexibility, while a small once suggests an alert mind and changeable mood.

The shape of the teeth can say a lot. The perfect and regular teeth displayed by actress Tatum O'Neal shows refinement as well as a good dentist. Wide teeth show plenty of energy, small teeth a penetrating mind. A closed mouth when smiling like the Mona Lisa's suggests someone recalling pleasures or enjoying a private joke.

If you have full and fleshy cheeks, you have a sensual and exuberant nature. If the cheeks are a triangular hollow, there is an envious nature and inner suffering.

The hair is just as important as the face and anyone with thin hair should be refined and affectionate. Strong wavy hair shows an impulsive, and courageous temperament. It also indicates great kindness.

How To Read Faces by Dr Li Tao (Hamlyn £5.95)

'Path of Switzerland'

Swiss sappers build footpath

By David Christian-Edwards

RUETLI, Switzerland. (Reuters): Along the shores of central Switzerland's historic Lake Uri, Colonel Heinz Bysseth and his 1,000 sappers have been showing the military does not just prepare for war.

They have been digging earth, blasting rock and spreading grit to lay a 35-km (22-mile) footpath to be opened as part of celebrations marking the 700th anniversary of the founding of the Swiss Confederation.

The colonel dismissed suggestions his men should be employed on more soldierly duties.

"No, no," he protested, as soldiers nearby unloaded equipment brought across the lake by landing craft from the small town of Brunnen.

"In a catastrophe, which needn't be war, it's good when you have soldiers who are

ready to repair water pipes, lay electric cables and do other civilian tasks."

The "Path of Switzerland," to be opened formally next year, will run from the Ruethi meadow, where men of the original Swiss cantons swore an oath to resist foreign oppression in 1291, to Brunnen, where the oath was renewed in 1315 after the Swiss beat the Austrians in battle.

Each of Switzerland's 26 cantons has been allotted a stretch of the path, to be marked with the giant boulders carved with cantonal emblems, and is paying its share of the 12 million Swiss franc \$8.5 million) cost.

The army engineer corps was chosen for the task because it could provide a large labour force at low cost.

Some thought that using only foreign workers, who make up most of the Swiss construction industry's workforce, would

be inappropriate for an essentially Swiss celebration.

"Shovelling is usually left to foreigners," said Bysseth. "I find it is not such a bad thing for once for the Swiss to do some hard manual labour without help from abroad."

The heaviest work was done in a four-week burst of activity in May, but the army will be back in October for another three weeks, leaving civilians to complete any remaining work by next May's opening.

When finished, the path will run through some of Switzerland's loveliest scenery, dominated by the mountains surrounding Lake Uri. From Ruethi walkers will go to Bauen, a pretty village sheltered from the wind where banana trees grow.

Further on they will pass through a tunnel, which the army has blasted

through a headland. They will later reach the William Tell Chapel, commemorating the legendary 13th-century hero who has come to symbolise Swiss independence.

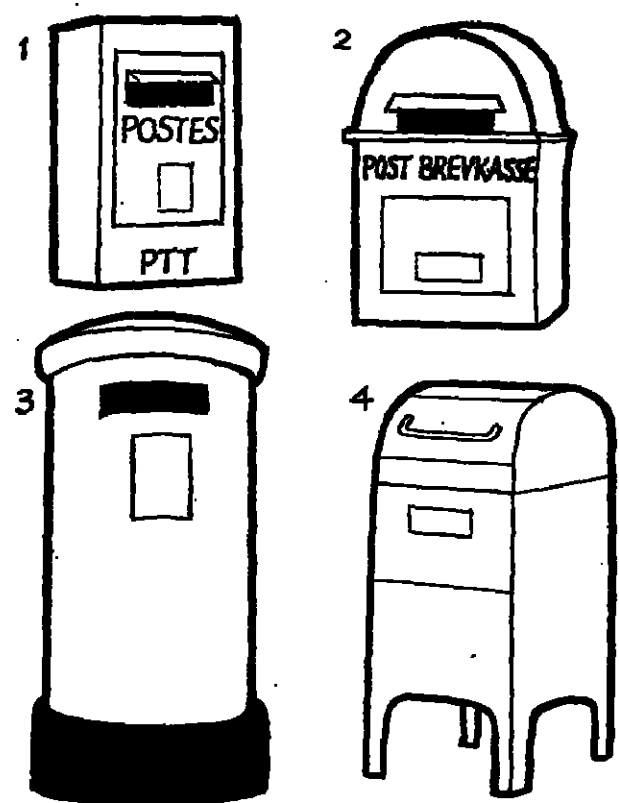
The last stretch leads via the village of Sikon to end in Brunnen at the "Place of the Swiss Abroad," a public garden which Swiss living abroad are buying to give the nation as a birthday present next year.

Soldiers seem to share their colonel's enthusiasm for the path.

"It's good to be doing something worthwhile rather than making tank traps or floating bridges," said one sapper coated in grime after spraying liquid concrete on a tunnel roof to stop loose rocks from falling on future ramblers.

All sappers on the project are civilians doing their annual army training of three weeks or so. The Swiss army is a citizen's militia.

Post Boxes



Name the four different countries that use these post boxes.

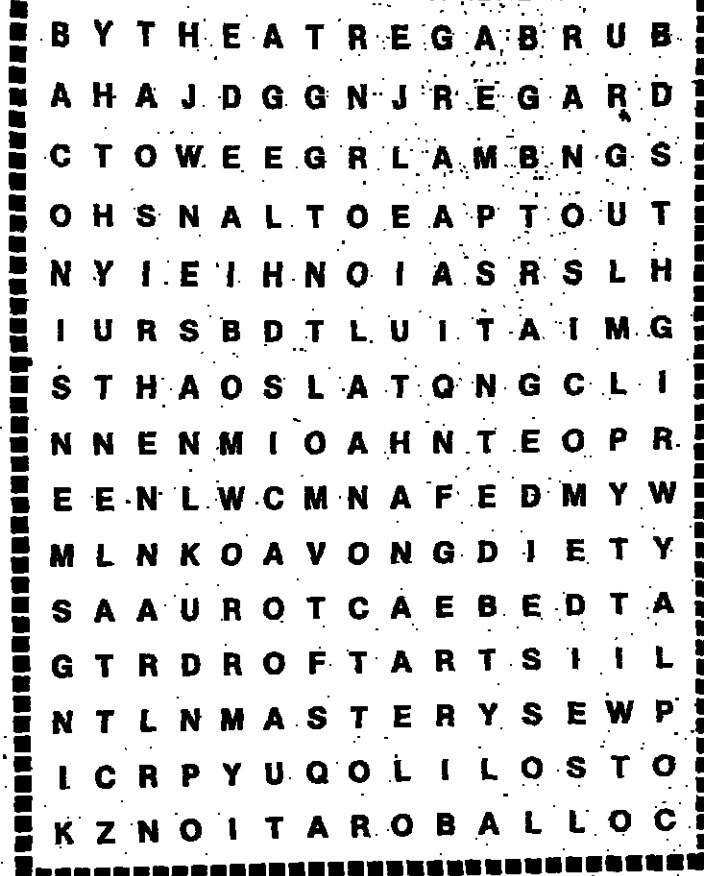
France, Denmark, Britain, U.S.A.

224

SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare is one of the world's most celebrated dramatists. Born in 1564, he amassed quite a collection of plays and poems. To learn more about his life, turn to the puzzle on the right hand side.

ACTOR	LONDON
ANNE (wife)	MARY (mother)
APRIL (born & died)	MASTERY
AVON	PLAYWRIGHT
BACON	POET
BEST	QUOTED
BURBAGE (partner)	REGARD
COLLABORATION	SOLILOQUY
COMEDIES	SONNETS
COURT	STAGE
DRAMATIST	STRATFORD
ENGLISH	SUSANNA (daughter)
GENIUS	TALENT
GLOBE	THEATRE
GREAT	TRAGEDIES
HATHAWAY	WILLIAM
JOHN (father)	WITTY
KING'S MEN	
(acting group)	



Make earphones

You will need two paper cups or clean empty yogurt pots and some string.

1. Make a small hole in the side of each cup near the top.
2. Measure the string so that it fits over the top of your head from ear to ear and then add a little extra for the knots.
3. Thread the string through each hole and secure it with a big knot at either end.

The headphones look like a telephone.

Just make the string longer and make the holes in the sides of each cup nearer to the bottom. The string headphones pulled straight out to work properly. You could also use this with a small portable radio.

Are you receiving me?

Loud and clear. I've got some new headphones, one on each ear.

What's that you said? I can't really hear. Was it something about a spoon in my ear?

Oh dear! You can't hear me. It's not a surprise. You shouldn't wear headphones over your eyes. Just slide them apart so they cover each ear. Now can you hear me?

LOUD AND CLEAR!

Sue Roffe

Canan Fernandes turns 1 on June 23.

Charlton Fernandes turns 12 on June 23.

Adel Yousef turns 5 on June 22.

Patricia Fernandes turns 8 on June 22.

Rabia Quraishi turned 7 on June 17.

Liban Azmat turns 1 on June 25.

The world's oldest cat was owned by a lady from Devon, England, whose pet died in 1939 at the age of 36 years.

An elephant's trunk has 40,000 muscles.

The owner of a white Samoyed dog, who lived at Felpham in England, was for years able to spin his dog's hair into thread and make it into socks, scarves, gloves and jumpers.

The turkey is a native of America. It was not brought to Europe until the beginning of the 16th century.

The largest worm is the Giant Gippsland earthworm. It is found in Victoria, Australia, and grows to a remarkable 3.6m (12ft) long, with a diameter of 20mm (3/4 in).

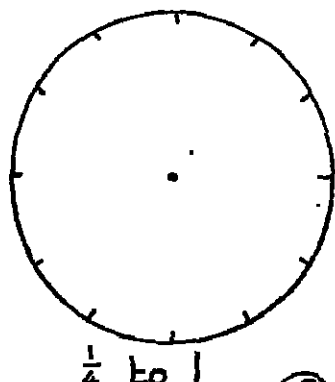
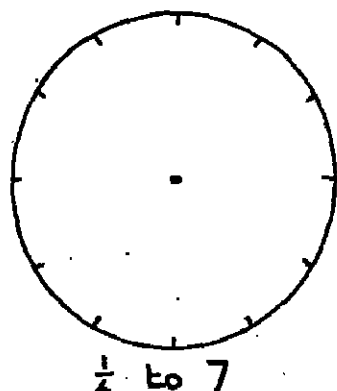
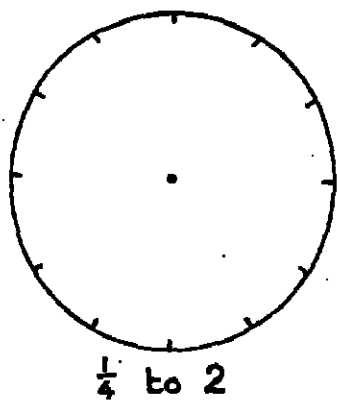
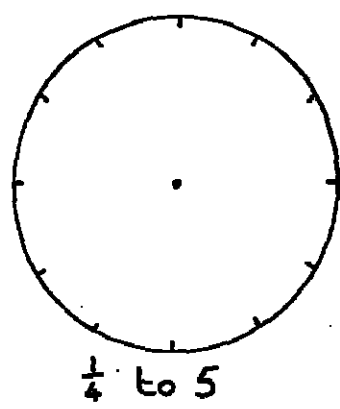
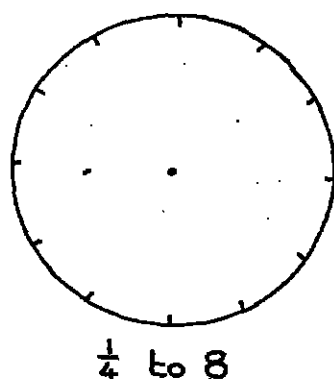
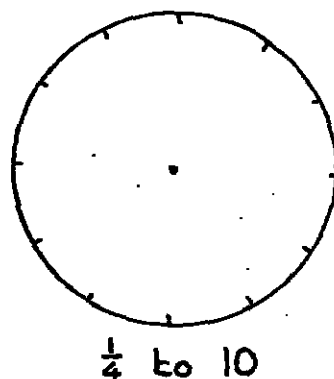
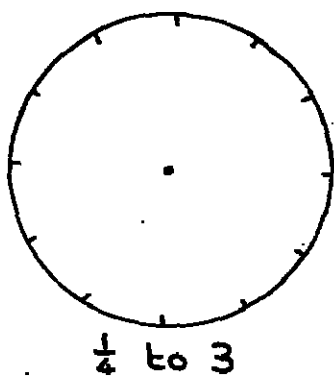
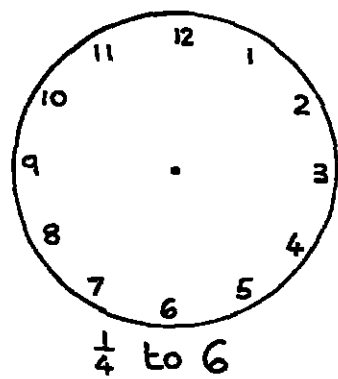
The most venomous snake is Belcher's sea snake, whose poison is 100 times more potent than that of the most dangerous land snake, the western taipan, found in Australia.

Water beetles can actually eat small fish and frogs. This mostly applies to large South American varieties, some of which are 100 mm (4 in) long, but even small water beetles will eat tiny fish and tadpoles.

The pig has been bred in captivity in China since about 4000 BC.

Telling the time

Put the hands on the clocks.



Do feelings ever make things happen?

Sometimes, in a roundabout way. The way you feel can influence how you act. Loving feelings, for instance, lead to loving acts. Confident feelings generally lead to trying harder and accomplishing more.

I like it when we take walks together Grandpa.

Don't worry, I'll help you.

What is love?

Love is a strong, positive feeling. When you love someone, you want to be close to them all the time. You care about them. You want them to be happy.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior readers,
If you are going on a holiday soon, it is best to write down a list of all the things you want to take with you. Usually, when left to the last minute, many things we need are forgotten in the rush.

Sit down and concentrate on all the things you need: clothes, toothbrush, a deck of cards, board games, a small cassette player, a camera and rolls of film etc. Jot them down and make a list. These things will go into your suit-case.

After completing this list, make another list of the things you need for the flight. These things should be portable, like a colouring book and pencil crayons, a small story book, an activity book, paper and pencils, so that you can write down

experiences you face on the aeroplane and some individually wrapped sweets.
Have a nice flight. JUNIOR TIMES will be waiting to hear of your stories abroad.
Manal

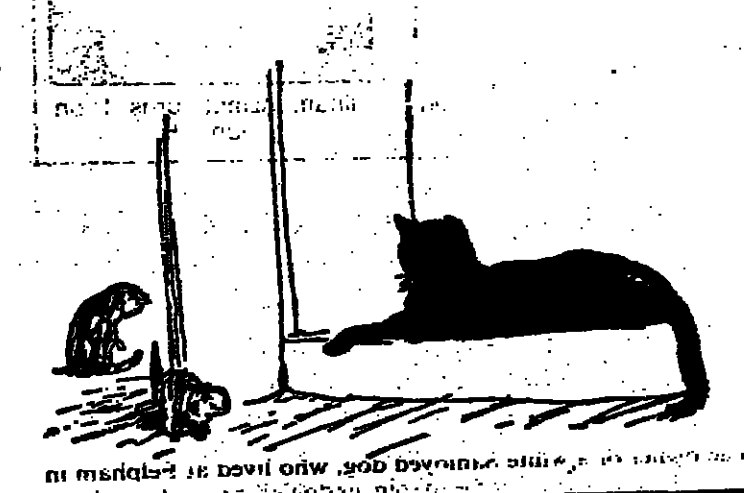
Pinkle Purr

Tattoo was the mother of Pinkle Purr,
A little black nothing of feet and fur;
And by-and-by, when his eyes came through,
He saw his mother, the big Tattoo.
And all that he learned he learned from her.
"I'll ask my mother," says Pinkle Purr.

Tattoo was the mother of Pinkle Purr,
A ridiculous kitten with silky fur.
And little black Pinkle grew and grew
Till he got as big as the big Tattoo.
And all that he did he did with her.
"Two friends together," says Pinkle Purr.

Tattoo was the mother of Pinkle Purr,
An adventurous cat in a coat of fur.
And whenever he thought of a thing to do,
He didn't much bother about Tattoo,
For he knows it's nothing to do with her,
So "See you later," says Pinkle Purr.

Tattoo is the mother of Pinkle Purr,
An enormous leopard with coal-black fur.
A little brown kitten that's nearly new
Is now playing games with its big Tattoo ...
And Pink looks lazily down at her:
"Dear little Tat," says Pinkle Purr.



Just for laughs!

Why did the nurse creep into the cupboard?
So as not to wake the sleeping-pills.

What room has no walls, floor, ceiling or windows?
A mushroom.

What is the invention that enables you to see through the thickest walls?
A window.

Why did the man throw his watch out of the window?
To see time fly.

What runs but has no legs?
A tap.

What has a neck but no head?
A bottle.

Why is a rabbit's nose always shiny?
'Cos it keeps its powder puff at the wrong end.

Why couldn't the leopard escape from the zoo?
'Cos he was always spotted.

If there are two tomatoes on a plate, which is the cowboy?
Neither — they're both redskins.

Where do ghosts go at Christmas time?
To see the Phantomime.

Where does Dracula always stay when he's in the Vampire State Building?

What do you think of Dracula films?
Fangtastic!

What does a ghost take for a bad cold?
Coffin drops.

Add the fractions and write the correct answer in the space provided.

A. $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{\quad}{5}$

B. $\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{\quad}{6}$

C. $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{\quad}{4}$

D. $\frac{3}{7} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{\quad}{7}$

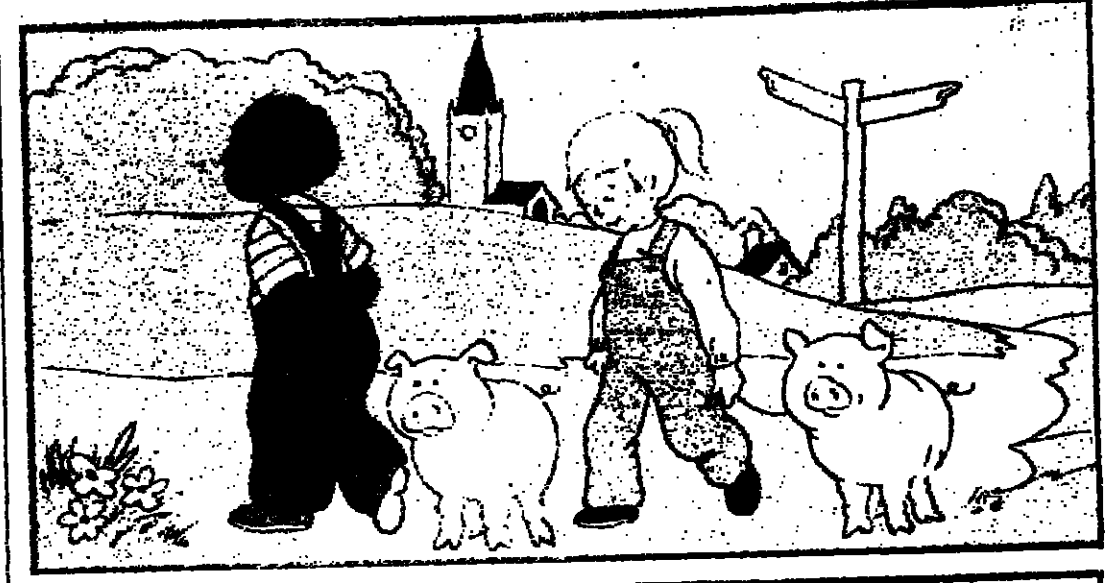
E. $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{\quad}{3}$

F. $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{\quad}{5}$

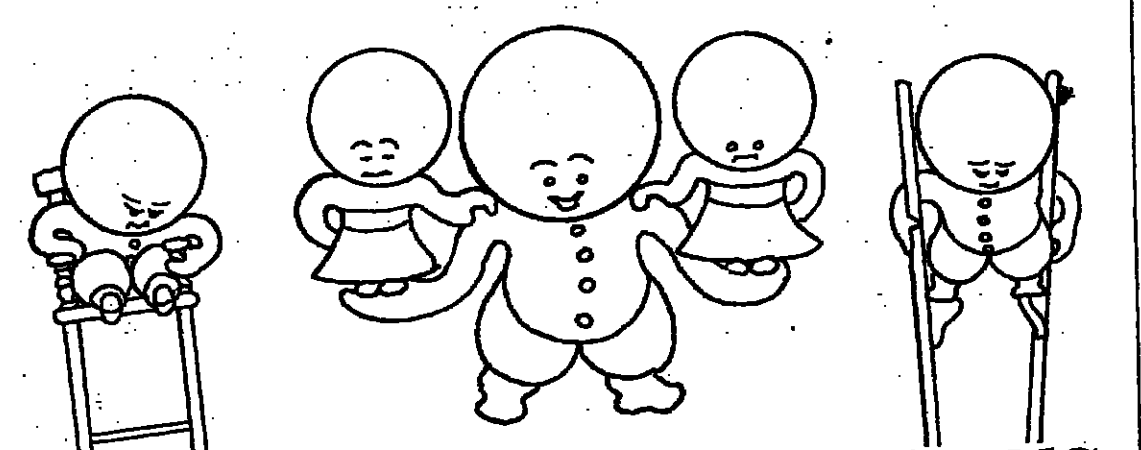
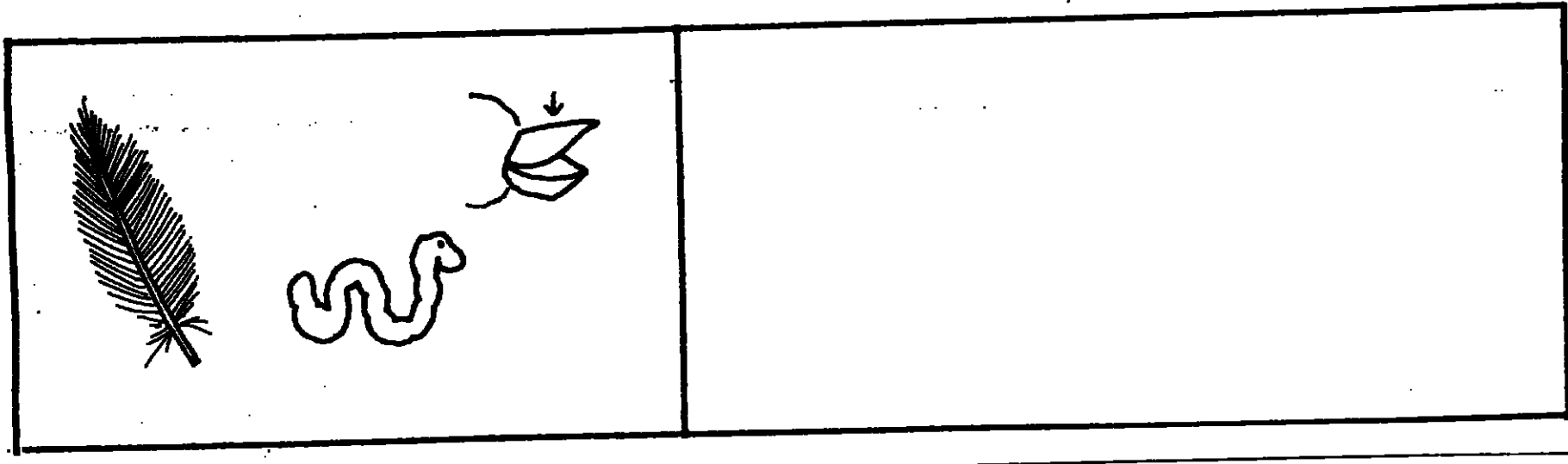
G. $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{2}{8} = \frac{\quad}{8}$

H. $\frac{4}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{\quad}{8}$

To market to market, to buy a fat pig,
Home again home again, together.
To market to market, to buy a fat hog,
Home again home again, together.
Spot four differences in the bottom picture.



Look at the three objects on the left. Then draw a picture on the right that shows who may own the objects.

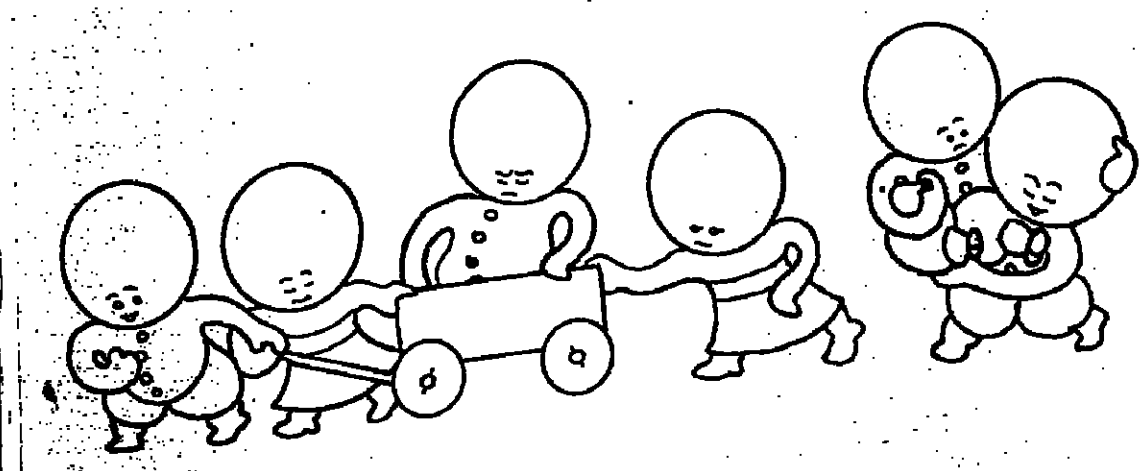


THE DUTY OF THE STRONG

You who are the oldest,
You who are the tallest,
Don't you think you ought to help
The youngest and the smallest?

You who are the strongest,
You who are the quickest,
Don't you think you ought to help
The weakest and the sickest?

Never mind the trouble,
Help them all you can;
Be a little woman!
Be a little man!



Print the two-letter blend you hear at the beginning of the words. Color the pictures.

bl b
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ocks

own

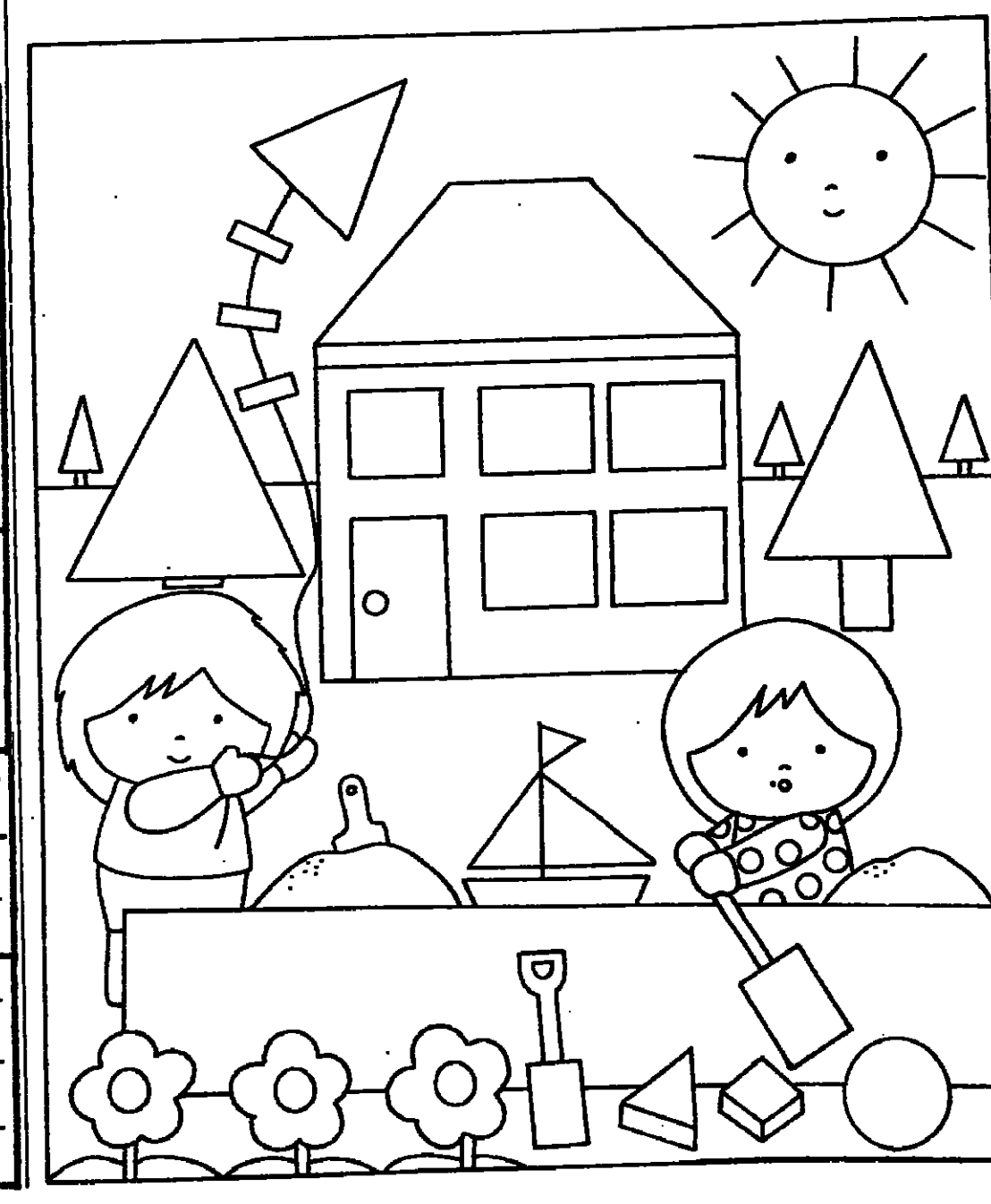
ouse

anket

over

Shapes

Colour the triangles in green, the rectangles in yellow and the circles in red.



EVENTS

Seasonal blockbusters

By Brian Hollis

THE first of the summer American blockbusters are beginning to arrive in Kuwait, and for the next two months or so a regular supply of excellent films is assured.

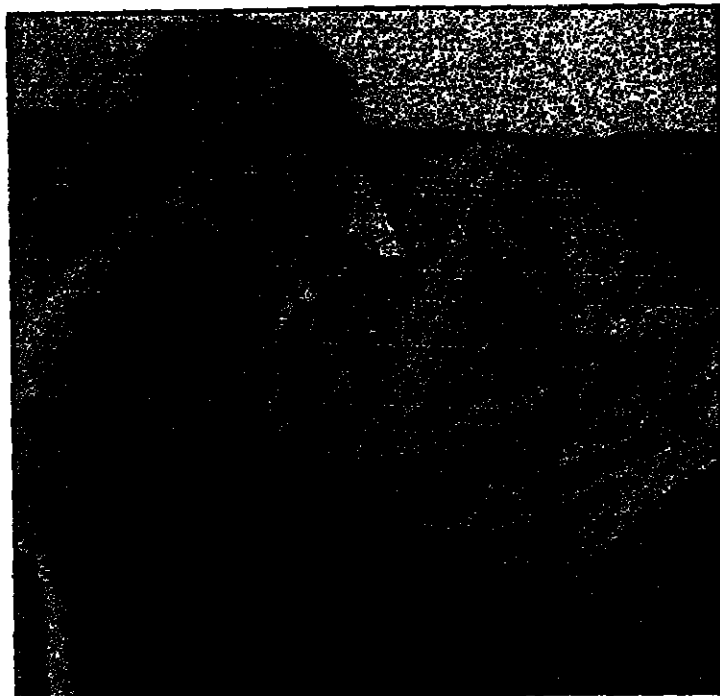
Those who were disappointed by the disjointed antics of *Back To The Future's* first sequel should be pleased with the latest (and purportedly last) segment of the time travel escapade. In Part III of the saga, Michael J. Fox as the perennially 18-year-old Marty McFly takes a back seat to Doctor Emmett Brown (Christopher Lloyd) who was accidentally zapped into 1885 in the cliff-hanger ending of Part II. When Marty goes looking for him, he meets his own great-grandfather (Fox again) while Brown encounters his first romance in the person of school-marm Mary Stenburgen.

Doc's love interest is a nice addition to a storyline that was beginning to wear a bit thin with only the problems of the McFly family to deal with. While Doc tries to figure out a way to travel back (forward?) To 1985 and keep Stenburgen as well, Marty has to prevent his mentor's murder at the hands of "Mad Dog" Tannen, an ancestor of arch-enemy Biff. Most of the childish time travel jokes from Part II have been eliminated, although Marty does adopt "Clint Eastwood" as his Western name. Part III's jokes come mainly from Marty's use of modern techniques to take advantage of otherwise hopeless situations, and director Zemeckis' tribute to the old West, Hollywood style.

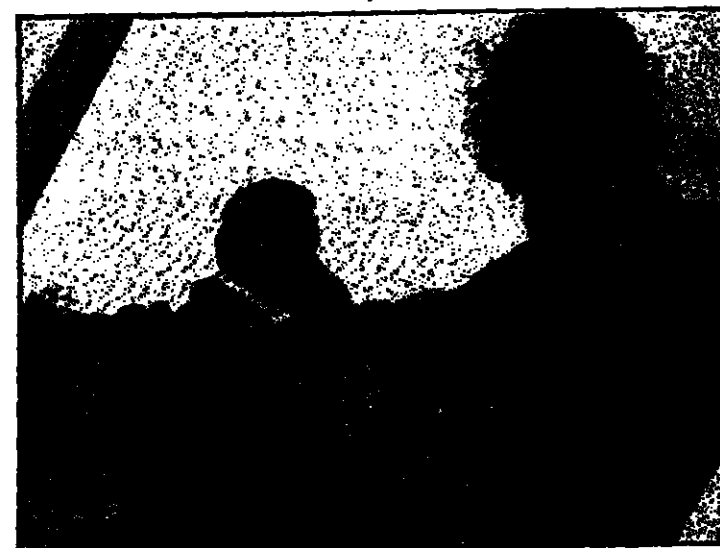
Anyone with a sense of history will certainly appreciate *Mountains Of The Moon*, which follows the British explorer Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke in their seemingly insane trek across Africa in search of the source of the Nile. While the true details of their relationship makes something of an anticlimax, the main body of the film makes an excellent, old-fashioned jungle adventure.

Burton (Patrick Bergin) is the genuine explorer, with many genuine exploits and publications behind him, who cannot resist the vast unexplored interior of Africa. Speke (Iain Glen) is more of a dilettante, at first tagging along on Burton's expedition to do some big game hunting. But Speke develops an obsession with the source of the Nile which comes to eclipse his partner's more anthropological interest.

Surviving an initial murderous attack by tribesmen, the two explorers regroup and set off for a trek which submits them to all



Woody Allen

Patrick Bergin and Iain Glen star in the British adventure, *Mountains of the Moon*.

sorts of hardships due to climate, terrain, sickness and a lengthy and fascinating encounter with the Buganda tribe. They become as close as brothers by the time they reach the lake which they believe to be the source of the Nile. Upon returning to London, Speke is deceived by a self-serving publisher into thinking that a report by Burton has slandered him. Feeling betrayed, Speke starts to take most of the credit for the discoveries, egged on by a geographical society which clearly prefers a true Englishman to the Irish Burton. Soon they are pitted against each other as rival proponents of the Nile theory, and although both long to restore their friendship, they are too stubborn, and Speke dies — apparently by his own hand — before the reunion.

The lack of star names should not deter viewers from watching this excellent movie, and although a partnership of, say, Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner would have improved the film's box office take, it would not necessarily have improved its authenticity.

It is always a pleasure to watch Nastassia Kinski on the screen, but alas most of her recent roles have been less than successful. *Torments of Spring* is based on a novel by Turgenev about a young aristocrat travelling in Germany. There he meets and falls for the naive Gemma (Valeria Golina — Tom Cruise's girlfriend in *Rainman*), who cannot resist the handsome Russian (Timothy Hutton) who defends her honour in a duel. However, in order to marry her

he has to sell some of the family lands, and the buyer is free-spirited Kinski. In spite of his situation, Dimitri can't resist a little fling, and ultimately his indiscretion costs him both women.

Alas, in spite of sumptuous decor and splendid locations, the film is deadly dull — it even ends up with a middle aged Dimitri staring out to sea and bemoaning his fate. This is one of those foppish tales that only Europeans can make, and no amount of acting talent could save such a wretchedly precious exercise.

Much more interesting is a recent compendium of 'New York stories' which consists of three short movies by New York's most famous directors — Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese and Francis Coppola. At the least it offers a provocative comparison of directorial styles, and although not tremendously successful at the box office, it has all the signs of becoming a cult hit. The first story by Scorsese stars Nick Nolte and Rosanna Arquette, and focuses on the relationship between a renowned artist and his young protégée. Coppola's *Life Without Zoi* is the story of a poor little-rich-girl, pampered by her father and doorman in a swank New York hotel while her flautist father and photographer mother travel their separate ways around the world. The title of Allen's tale tells all. *Oedipus Wrecks* reworks his favourite themes of male-female and mother-son relationships, with self-conscious Sheldon trying to hang on to his sanity, while his all-seeing, all-knowing mother hovers in the background.

Sensation seekers will want to take a look at *wired*, the controversial biopic of John Belushi by journalist Bob Woodward. The Saturday Night Live hero's laden and debauched last years do not make for a very cheerful film, but should be of some interest to serious movie fans. *Dr Fischer of Geneva* was James Mason's last major role and stars him as an all powerful industrialist who gets his kicks from humiliating his friends and lieutenants. When he takes a dislike to his daughter's prospective husband, he prepares some extra special games. Finally, *Twister* is an oddball of a movie starring Harry Dean Stanton as head of a strange Midwestern family which carries on regardless as a tornado rips through their home.

The above movies are by courtesy of VFL Films/Faraway Video Club, Sakmiya, Video Nasf, Sakmiya Complex.

A cut above the rest

By Jack E. Wilkinson

● *Steel Magnolias*: Robert Harling's screen version of his hit play has moved the frequent inhabitants of Truvy's beauty shop outdoors and expanded the plot considerably. Still, Truvy's remains the emotional focal point and while told from a different perspective, it's still warm, moving, humorous experience, capturing well life in a small town. It's also a remarkable ensemble effort by six quite different actresses playing six very different women, bound by a survivalist's camaraderie. The story evolves about M'lyan, an iron-willed southern matron played by Sally Field, and her headstrong daughter Shelby (Julia Roberts). Dolly Parton is Truvy, Shirley MacLaine the eccentric Quiser, Olympia Dukakis the Mayor's elegant widow Clairee and Daryl Hannah nearly disguised as geekish Annelie, the new girl in town. They are a treat to watch. 1989, 118 minutes. RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video. Rated PG. KD3.

● *Roger and Me*: Like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, filmmaker Michael Moore takes on General Motors, or tries to, in this exceptional feature-length documentary. GM throws thousands out of work when it closes several plants in Flint, Mich., creating economic chaos, leading to mass departures and evictions. At one point, Moore cites statistics showing more rats than humans in Flint — a lot more. With a film crew, Moore sets out to convince GM Chair-

Bob Hoskins with Denzel Washington in *Heart Condition*.Daryl Hannah plays Annelie in *Steel Magnolias*.

man Roger Smith to come with him to Flint to see first hand what his company's decision has meant to the people there. While trying in vain to track down Smith, Moore seizes every opportunity to mirror life in a sick city, interviewing the plagued and the privileged alike in an attempt to show a vast

chasm between classes, wasted millions and corporate indifference. Sure, Moore's report is totally biased, but the film is a well-timed, scathing essay, bitterly funny, fast-moving, entertaining. 1989, 91 minutes. Warner Home Video. Rated R. KD3.

● *Music Box*: Jessica Lange stars as Ann Talbot, a Chicago lawyer trying to clear her father of wartime atrocities in this courtroom drama from Costa-Gavras. Mike Lazlo (Armin Mueller-Stahl) faces deportation to Hungary to face charges that he took part in war crimes more than 50 years earlier unless his daughter can have them thrown out. Her own investigation turns up a great deal more than is brought out in court. While it lacks much suspense and too many things seem too pat, it's an intriguing story. Lange is effective as the daughter trying to prove her father's innocence to herself as well as to the court. 1989, 126 minutes. Fox. Rated PG-13. Not available in Kuwait.

● *Heart Condition*: Last time out, Bob Hoskins co-starred with an animated rabbit. This time he's paired with a ghost that only he can see. Not exactly your main stream typecasting. Hoskins, however, does well with whatever comes his way, even in this dishevelled comedy-drama about a bigoted white cop with the heart of a murdered black lawyer. Denzel Washington, another fine actor capable of rising above his material, is the lawyer who comes back to keep an eye on his transplanted heart and help the cop find his killer. The racial jokes get old quickly, but the movie grows on you after a while, thanks to the "odd couple" banter between the sloppy Hoskins and the spiffy Washington. The addition of Chloe Webb as a soft-hearted hooker further helps to keep *Heart Condition* from becoming a terminal case. 1989, 96 minutes. RCA/Columbia Home Video. Rated R. KD3.

Look Who's Talking (RCA-Columbia) still rules the roost among video rentals in US for the sixth straight week in the Billboard Magazine Survey. *Back to The Future II* (MCA-Universal) has jumped from ninth to second this year in the 1993 animated classic *Peter Pan*, due in video stores Sept 21, priced at dhs 24.99.

Lassie Come Home, one of the most famous family films of the '40s, is at last coming to home video, complete with a technical restoration. MGM/UA has set a July 18 date for the film which stars Roddy McDowell and Elizabeth Taylor in her first major screen role.

Bilboard's top 10 rentals
1. *Look Who's Talking* — (RCA-Columbia, Home Video)
2. *Back To The Future II* — (MCA-Universal Home Video)
3. *Black Rain* — (Paramount Home Video)
4. *Sea of Love* — (MCA-Universal Home Video)
5. *The Little Mermaid* — (Walt Disney Home Video)
6. *The Fabulous Baker Boys* — (live)
7. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* — (Warner Home Video)
8. *Harlem Nights* — (Paramount Home Video)
9. *Dead Poets Society* — (Touchstone Home Video)
10. *Sex, Lies And Videotape* — (RCA-Columbia Home Video)

Vidbits
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Michael J. Fox with Tom Wilson. They star in the *Back to the Future*.

WHAT'S ON

Pakistan Arts Circle membership campaign
June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30. To prepare for elections of a new executive committee, all Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

Festival on Ice
June 19-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 5230000/2533000.

Kapilku
July 5: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring; bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Maungay Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner. KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarim-bang. Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

Weekend Club
July 2: The Weekend Club will hold "Red and Black Nite" at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of the "Red and Black Lady". The "Man of the Year" award will be announced. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones bands in attendance. For details contact Julio Cardozo — Tel: 4315425; Hilary 5741380; Mercedes, 4890566.

Classical Dance Show
June 22: Sudarshan Kala Mandir will present a classical dance show at IAC, Funtaites. For entry passes call 5657288 or 4315271.

Beal Festival
July 12: Coming up next month is the Beal Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmad Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Sheraton
Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night, Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousoouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet: family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS
Bisretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

Cinema
British Council
June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harries or Mrs Locky.
June 27: 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — *Care Bears* — Making Friends; 66 minutes. Please book seats.
Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

At the Messiah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm. Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdowah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.
At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmad Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Sheraton
Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night, Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.

Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousoouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet: family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS
Bisretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.
Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
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TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.00	Holy Quran
9.15	Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.40	Iftah Ya Simsim
10.10	Good Morning
10.30	Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial, part 12, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
11.15	News Summary
12.00	Al Rasaf Al Barad: Arabic serial, part 12, featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
1.20	Songs
1.30	Sanavar: cartoon serial
2.00	News in Arabic
2.15	Ailab Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial, ep. 12, featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim
3.00	Religious programme
3.35	Alif Laila Wa Laila
4.00	Lila Al Khamis: presented by Amina Al Sharrab, Majed Al Shatti
5.30	Sally: cartoon serial
6.00	From Egypt to Kuwait: magazine show
6.30	Sandook Al La'ab Kabit
7.30	With Islam
8.25	From People's Life
9.00	News in Arabic
9.45	Uyoun Al Akhreen: Arabic serial, featuring Bost, Abu Bakr Ezzat, Hamdi Ahmad, Ahmad Abdul Aziz
11.00	Al Ghani Wal Fariq: Arabic film
12.15	News Summary
12.20	World News via Satellite
12.35	Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00	Holy Quran
6.10	Police Academy: cartoons
6.30	Mr Wizard's World: an educational programme for young viewers
7.00	Wild America: "Bushy Tails"
7.30	Munsters Today: "The Meeting Pot". Louis changes his mind about doing a favour for Lily Comdy.
8.00	News in English
8.40	Beauty and the Beast: "Legacies". Diana realises that a series of crimes are linked with the people of the underworld. Starring: Ron Perlman
9.30	Bill Cosby Show: "The Birthday Party". Denise prepares for Olivia's birthday party. Comedy. Starring: Bill Cosby, Phyllis Rashad.
10.00	Just for the Record: a feature of record-breakers in various fields.
10.30	Thursday Night Movie: "They Call Him Bulldozer". Starring Bud Spencer. The Bulldozer, a rugby coach, is asked to train a civilian team to play against an army team.
12.00	News in Brief
12.10	Magazine: D'Actualite/Closedown

Sports Channel Channel 6/45

6.00	World Cup (football): Spain v Belgium (live)
8.10	Uruguay v S. Korea (replaying)
10.00	Egypt v England (live)
12.10	Ireland v Holland (replaying)

PLS NOTE: World Cup: Friday, rest day. KTV will show a number of programmes, including highlights from recorded soccer matches, baseball and other sporting events from around the world.

Daily sports features on the sports channel include UAE World Cup report, sports shots and sports analysis.

FRIDAY

9.00	Holy Quran
9.25	Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
9.50	Ta'leem Kharji Al Madrasah: part two
10.15	Songs
10.30	Al Rahlah: children's serial, starring Safa Al Subei, Ahmad Abdul Waris
11.00	Ahadith Manduwa
11.15	Friday Prayer
12.30	Colours
1.00	News summary
1.05	World News via Satellite
1.25	Hadhith Deeni: religious talk
2.00	Halaqat Tameeliya: "Tanateef", part 2, starring: Ghanem Slati, Huda Hussein, Abdul Aziz Al Jassin.
2.45	Cultural film
3.30	Hindi film, featuring Ashok Kumar, Zarina Wahab
6.00	Cultural programme
7.30	Kuwait In A Week
8.00	Multaki Al Usrah: cultural programme; part 2
8.45	Hadhith Usbooh: religious programme
9.00	News in Arabic
9.45	Ayoun Al Akhreen:

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

	3.13 am	3.14 am
Fajr		
Zuhr	11.50	Friday Prayer
Asr	3.23 pm	11.50
Maghreb	6.50	Asr
Isha	8.23	Maghreb
		Isha

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus	Al Raqqasah Wai Siyasi (Arabic)
Al Jabra	Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil
Al Sakmiya	Hanafi Al Abhahu (Arabic)
Al Ramzi	Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi
Al Hamra	Sisterhood
Al Firdous	Drive-In
Al Raqqasah Wai Siyasi (Arabic)	
Al Firdous	Izzatdaar (Hindi)
Al Jabra	Starring: Madhuri Dixit
Al Sakmiya	Fababeh Open-Air
Al Ramzi	Bandish (Hindi)
Al Firdous	Al Fatahah

Kala Khooon (Bengali)
Al Jabra
Al Maalood (Arabic)
Granada
Scrooge
Salsabihah
Jagrat (Malayalam)
Al Jleeb
Nair Saab (Malayalam)
Starring: Mammootty
Ahmadi Drive-In
Fidous Wafat Al Autobus (Arabic)

FRIDAY
Al Jabra
Dragon Bruce Lee (II)
Granada
Enter the Dragon
Salsabihah
Raging Vendetta

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MISHRIE, Block 3, Street 3, Road No 50, House No 34. Small villa for a small family. Tel: 5380521. (AT5-53280-3)

Available

SALMIYA, single room with separate bath available for a bachelor (North Indian + non-smoker) to share with an Indian family. Tel: 2439217/8 ext. 73 or 5630124. (AT6-53317-3)

HASSAWI, spacious room for a couple only with tele. facilities in a 3-bedroom apartment to share with a Pakistani family. Rent KD55 with water & electricity. Mr. Hasan 4311329. (AT6-53312-3)

ROOM for family and bachelors. Al Dasmia, Block 3, Street 36, Lane 37, House 8, near supermarket, hospital and mosque. Bus routes 25, 18, 14, 38, 16, 502. (AT4-53258-3)

SPACIOUS rooms available for families at Al Dasmia, Marakash Street, House No. 121. Contact Qamar Un-Nisa, Tel. 2401332. (AT4-53273-3)

ACCOMMODATION available, preferably for a couple or one bachelor in a furnished apartment, near Al Shifa (Dr. Khan) Hospital, Sharq. Tel: 4848601 (off), 2443489 (res), Kumar. (AT4-53267-3)

SALMIYA, K.G. building, 4th floor opp. Indian School (primary) room for a small family or working ladies with kitchen and tele. facilities. Tel: 5630886 res. (AT4-53313-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous Cinema House 87. Rooms in Arabic type villa for Indian families or bachelors. Contact Francis personally after 2 pm. (AT5-53301-3)

KEIFAN, House No 5, Al Quds Street, Area 1, room in a villa with separate kitchen and toilet for a family or working ladies (Indian or Filipino). Tel: 4818017, Adel. (AT5-53301-3)

SHARQ, behind Al Firdous Cinema, opp. Female Teachers Institute, House No. 117. Accommodation available. Tel: 2432189. (AT4-53261-3)

SALMIYA, near Edeed Store. Sharing accommodation with tele facilities for one bachelor to share with another bachelor in a 2 bedroom flat with a Muslim family. Tel: Mukhtar, 5624863, 3-6 pm. (AT5-53278-3)

SALMIYA, Maidan Hawalli, Farha Super Market, Indian bakala, Shams Al Sharq, Single room in a flat for a couple/bachelors/spin-flat to share with an Indian family. Tel: Rocky, 5736802. (AT4-53255-3)

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TOYOTA Coaster, model 1982, with capacity of 19 persons. Offering KD1,500. Tel. 4803333, K.E. Lee. (AT4-53243-3)

NISSAN Stanza 83, in excellent condition, 5 speed manual, KD450. Tel. Mohd. Khalid, 5720121/ext 138, 7 am - 2:00 pm. (AT5-53299-2)

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MASERATI Quattroporte 83, model, in good condition insurance upto May 1991 KD2500. Tel: 4316051 after 4 pm, contact Jayan or Engelbert. (AT5-53296-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GLXi, 1985 model white, 89,000 kms, 5 speed manual gear, all others automatic, in immaculate condition. Tel: 4718157, after 2 pm. (AT5-53302-3)

VOLVO 240DL '86 Estate, in excellent condition, KD2000 ono. Tel: 5759044, 5759045. (AT5-53270-3)

MITSUBISHI Sapporo 1983, 2 door, fully automatic, KD650. Well-maintained and in excellent condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel: 2544817. (AT4-53253-3)

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2 storey villa with 5 bed	KD 700	New floor, 3 bed, 3 bath	KD 400
2 storey with pool	KD 800		
1 storey villa	KD 700	Half villa 1st floor, 4 bed, 3 bath	KD 450
2 storey new villa	KD 900		
1 storey with 4 bed	KD 650	1st floor, 3 bed, 3 bath	KD 400
2 storey with 5 bed	KD 550		
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NAME CHANGE

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SITUATIONS

Vacant

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Wanted

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SPORTS

Baggio, Schillaci score for home side

Italians take Czechs to task



Baggio (right) celebrates his second half goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

ROME, June 20, (Reuters): Roberto Baggio, the world's most expensive player, scored on his World Cup debut yesterday to keep Italy in Rome for the second round with a commanding 2-0 win over Czechoslovakia.

Silvian Salvatore Schillaci had scored in the ninth minute after midfielder Roberto Donadoni lifted a corner to Giuseppe Giannini. Schillaci headed Giannini's flick securely past Czechoslovak goalkeeper Jan Stejskal.

Baggio, who transferred from Fiorentina to Juventus for a world record \$13 million, put the outcome beyond doubt when he scored in the 77th minute. He finished a scintillating run from inside his own half by sidestepping two defenders and sending the keeper the wrong way.

The goals proved manager Azeglio Vicini had made the right choice in putting Schillaci and Baggio in for regular strike pair Gianluca Vialli and Andrea Carnevale.

Italy dominated the match throughout and could have scored a dozen times. They still found it difficult to find the net, regularly squandering chances up front.

Both Italy and Czechoslovakia had qualified for the second round of the competition after winning their first two matches, but the hosts wanted to win the group to stay in Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Schillaci had been used as a substitute in Italy's previous two matches, scoring in the first against Austria.

Baggio, who demonstrated his worth with tireless running and superb ball control, had twice come close in the first half.

In the 32nd minute he had Stejskal diving to the right after a fine pass from captain Giuseppe Bergomi and in the 39th he ran through several defenders but the keeper grabbed the ball from his feet.

Vicini afterwards described Baggio's exhibition as "extraordinary for its individual skill and for his athletic freshness."

Fans in the packed Olympic Stadium, who had whistled during Italy's disappointing 1-0 over the lowly United States, had a feast of fine moves to cheer.

Nicola Berti, Donadoni and stopper Riccardo Ferri all came close and Schillaci was a constant danger.

Italy were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty in the 57th minute when Schillaci was brought down by Tomas Skuhravy, but French referee Joel Quiniou gave the free kick to Czechoslovakia indicating the striker had dived.

The Czechoslovaks, outmanoeuvred and outrun, resorted to heavy tackles to try to curb the Italians' enthusiasm. Jozef Chovanec, Skuhravy and Michal Bilek were all booked for fouls or dissent.

Desperate

Czechoslovakia had few chances. Shots on goal were often desperate kicks from way outside the area.

In the 21st minute Bilek shot wide from a Chovanec corner and in the 63rd a clever move ended with substitute Stanislav Griga putting the ball in the net. But the linesman had signalled offside.

It was the first time in 37 years that Italy had beaten Czechoslovakia. Their previous eight meetings had ended in four wins for the Czechoslovaks and four draws.

But their last meeting in the World Cup — also at the Olympic Stadium — produced a victory for the Italians in the final in 1934.

Italy, who are the only team in the tournament yet to concede a goal, are bidding for a record fourth World Cup.

Czechoslovakia go to the south eastern city of Bari for their second round clash, but it is not yet clear who their opponent will be.

Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos said Italy deserved to win. "In the first few minutes we did not settle down properly — then their goal came," he said.

"Italy have very skilful players and it is difficult to mark them," Venglos said, adding that any team who met Italy would have to be on very good form to win.

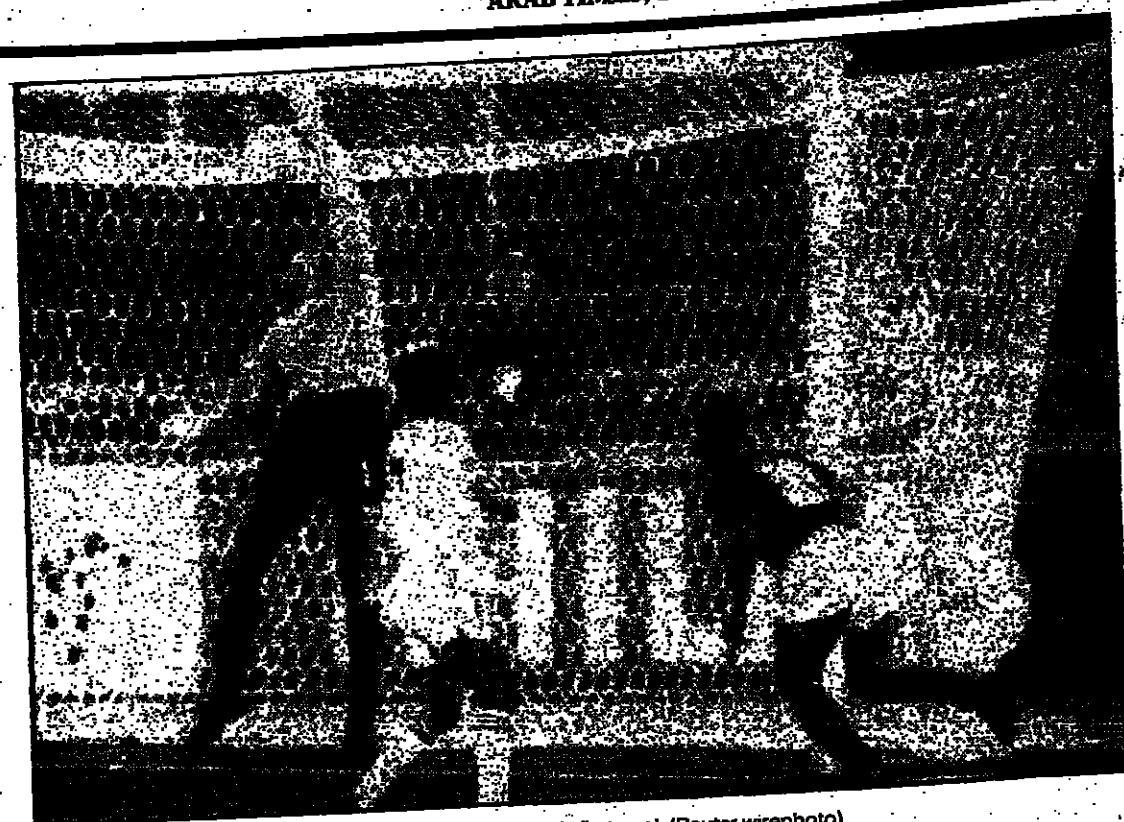
Vicini said he was happy with his team's performance but regretted the missed chances.

He would not be drawn on whether he would stick with the attacking duo of Schillaci and Baggio, untied before yesterday's match.

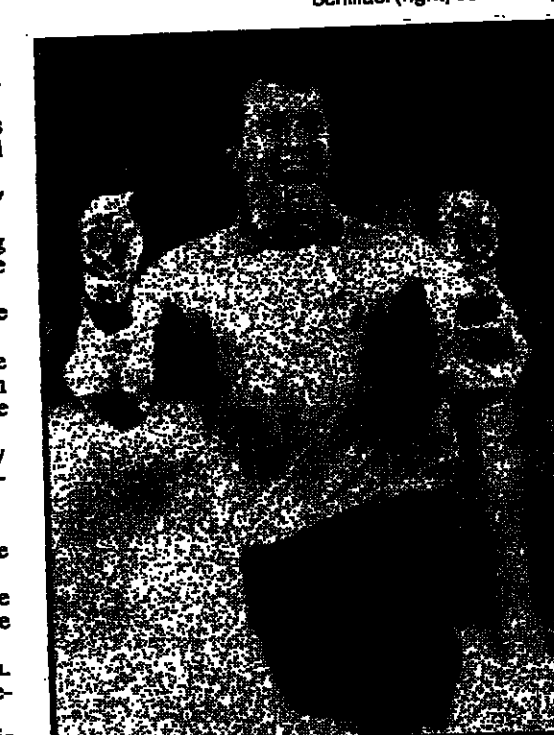
"It's better to have the choice of many good players than to have a choice forced upon you," he said, adding that star striker Vialli was a fundamental element on the team when on form. The Sampdoria striker was left out because of muscular pain in his leg.

Donadoni, who hobbled off in the second half, had twisted a knee. Vicini said he hoped the strain was slight but it was too early to be sure.

Baggio said: "It was very important for me to score goals. I found it difficult at first — I was a bit nervous, but my team-mates helped and in the end I played better."



Schillaci (right) scores Italy's first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Italy's goalkeeper Walter Zenga celebrates his team's first goal. Right: Schillaci (foreground) and team captain Giuseppe Bergomi jubilate. (Reuters wirephoto)



'Hooligans communicate by radio'

CAGLIARI, June 20, (Reuters): English soccer hooligans operate in well-structured groups led by 'generals' and co-ordinated by radio, a British minister said yesterday.

Home Office (Interior Ministry) Minister of State Lord Ferrers, responsible for Britain's police, told a news conference in Cagliari:

"I think there is a certain element amongst English people who masquerade under the name of being fans and yet who in fact want to create trouble."

"These people have their own organisation. They have their generals, they have their own structure, they have their walkie-talkies," he said.

"They plan (trouble) as an operation and they use football as the vehicle by which they will carry out these activities."

He did not elaborate on his allegation that fans communicated with walkie-talkies.

Lord Ferrers said he was impressed by the co-operation between Italian and British officers during the World Cup.

He was visiting Sardinia to meet local officials and to be briefed by British police who are on the island to monitor hooligan groups.

Ferrers said Saturday's violence in Cagliari, when rock-throwing English supporters clashed with riot police on the way to the stadium, could have been worse.

But he added: "Any trouble destroys the name of England in international circles."

Police fired several shots in the air to subdue fighting between Italians and English World Cup fans in Sardinia during the night.



Franco Baresi (centre) of Italy dives to head the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fernando de Napoli (front) of Italy and Czechoslovakia's Manfred Linzmaier fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spain aim to avenge defeat

VERONA, Italy, June 20, (Reuters): Spain, needing a point to be sure of a place in the second round of the World Cup, have a score to settle with Belgium tomorrow.

When the two sides last met in a World Cup tie in Mexico four years ago, Belgium won a penalty shoot-out to reach the semifinals.

The Belgians made sure of a place in the last 16 with a 3-1 defeat of Uruguay on Sunday, but they paid a heavy price for their victory.

Eric Gerets was sent off, earning an automatic suspension for the match against Spain, and fellow defender Leo Clusters strained a

thigh muscle. He will not be fit until the second round.

Another defender, George Grun, and midfielder Bruno Versavel are doubtful for tomorrow's Group E tie. Grun suffered a cut leg and Versavel took a knock on the knee.

"When there's even the slightest doubt about his fitness, I will not field Grun, and the same goes for Versavel," coach Guy Thys said.

"I only want players in my team who are 100 per cent fit. I need them too much for the second round."

"But that doesn't mean that I see the match against Spain just as a

friendly," Thys added. "Winning first place in the group is important."

Spain's 3-1 win over South Korea — thanks to a Michel Platini — lifted an enormous weight off the shoulders of coach Luis Suarez, who had come under fire after the goalless draw with Uruguay in their opening match.

"Naturally we intend to improve things. But the main thing was to win and qualify," Suarez said after the South Korea match.

"We can now play more calmly and more easily."

Kickoff Thursday (6.00 pm, Kuwait Time)

Business down

CAGLIARI, June 20, (Reuters): Hotel owners in Cagliari, where the World Cup has been marred by violence, said yesterday their bookings were down by almost half on last year because of the soccer competition.

Guglielmo Capolino, chairman of Sardinia's Hotel Owner's Association, told reporters: "So far now we have only been hurt by the World Cup."

Capolino said only half the 2,000 beds available in Cagliari had been taken by journalists, officials and teams as well as police drafted in to protect the town from the fans.

'UAE may slide into obscurity'

BOLOGNA, June 20, (Reuters): Wiser and richer, the players of the United Arab Emirates will return home to their full-time jobs this week and, their coach fears, slide back into relative obscurity.

"It happened with Iraq and Kuwait," said the UAE's Brazilian World Cup coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

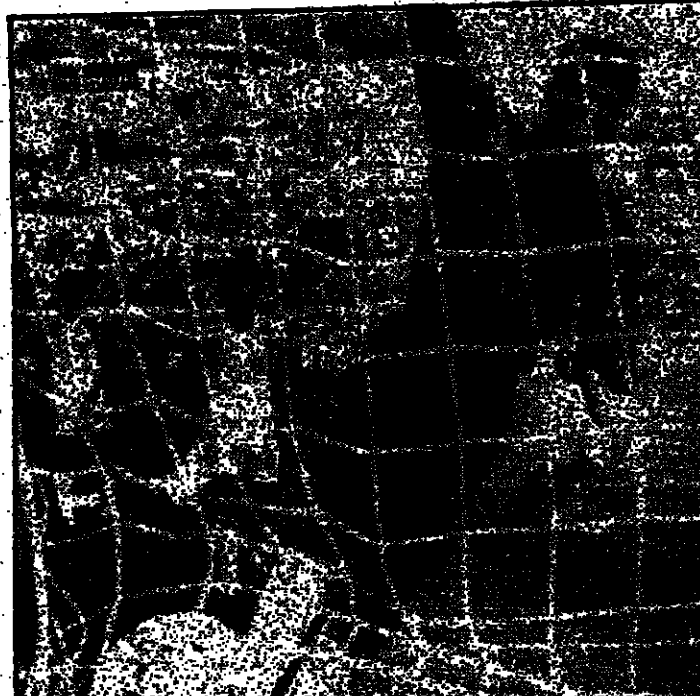
"They reached the World Cup finals once and they didn't come back again. It was as though they felt that the World Cup was the end of everything."

Parreira was happy with his team's performance on their World Cup debut, despite conceding 11 goals in their three defeats in Group D.

"As far as I am concerned, we did exactly what we could do," said Parreira who took charge of the amateur side only three months ago amid massive confusion.

Fellow Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo, who steered the side through the World Cup qualification stage for the first time, was sacked in January after a row with UAE officials.

His successor, Pole Bernard Blaut, lasted less than two months before resigning after the team finished bottom in the six-nation Gulf Cup.



UAE goalie Abdullah Moosa watches in desperation as the ball enters his goal in Tuesday's match against Yugoslavia. (Reuters wirephoto)

When Parreira, the UAE's coach for four years until 1988, took charge again he found a squad of overweight, unfit players who had not exercised for 40 days.

His job was complicated by the fact that the players, all strict Muslims, were observing Ramadan — the month of fasting — and were unable to train or eat during daylight hours.



Ogris (centre) is airborne after being fouled by United States' Desmond Armstrong. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ogris, Rodax steer Austrians to victory

FLORENCE, June 20, (Reuters): Second half goals by Andreas Ogris and Gerhard Rodax earned Austria a 2-1 World Cup win over the United States yesterday in a bad-tempered match which produced one sending-off and eight bookings.

Austria's Group A triumph kept alive their slim hopes of reaching the second round as one of the four best third-placed sides. Italy won the group and Czechoslovakia were second.

Ogris ran half the length of the pitch to score in the 51st minute and Rodax added the second 12 minutes later to live up to a dour, aggressive match which saw Austrian Peter Artner sent off and five bookings in the first half alone.

Syrian referee Jamal Al Sharif sent off midfielder Artner in the 34th minute for going in with two feet on American striker Peter Vermes.

The incident was characteristic of a match littered with late tackling and ferocious challenges.

The victory gave Austrians their first points of the tournament, while the Americans ended their group programme pointless.

The Americans, playing in their first World Cup finals for 40 years, scored a consolation goal through Andrew Murray eight minutes from time.

The goal lifted the Americans and as the Austrians, battling to make up for the loss of Artner, began to tire near the end, the US had

several chances to snatch a late equaliser.

The three goals were rare highlights of a mediocre game, punctuated by too many stoppages for it ever to develop any pattern.

Afterwards Austrian coach Josef Hickberger bemoaned the fact that his side had conceded a late goal.

"The goal has reduced our chances of going further a great deal," he said. "But my team gave 100 per cent tonight."

US coach Bob Gansler said he believed his team had shown in the final two group games — a 1-0 defeat by Italy and the loss to Austria — that they were "not that far away from the leading teams in the world."

Gansler added: "These guys need a professional League to play at this level now."

Romanians get bonus

TELESE, Italy, June 20, (AP): Romanian players have earned \$10,000 each while clinching a spot in the second round of the World Cup.

The draw with Argentina that assured the Romanians of a place in the second round was worth \$7,000 to each player — \$5,500 for becoming the first Romanian team to qualify for the second round and \$1,500 for the draw itself, said Deputy Sports Minister Cornel Dinu.

The players earlier had earned \$3,000 for a 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union in their opening match, Dinu said.

The players also were rewarded with a day off yesterday, one day after the 1-1 draw with Argentina in Naples.

"We are making history for Romania and for us this is very important," midfielder Gheorghe Hagi said of the team's qualification for the second round.

The team will stay in Telesse, a mountain village northeast of Naples, until Saturday. Then it will travel to Genoa for its second-round match on Monday against the second-place team from Group F.



US' Peter Vermes (left) attempts to control the ball as Austria's Robert Poll looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)



John Harkas (left) of US falls down after being hit by Austrian goalkeeper Klaus Lindenberger. (Reuters wirephoto)



Austrian goalkeeper Klaus Lindenberger and John Harkas wrestle for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rincon becomes Colombia hero

ROME, June 20, (Reuters): Freddy Rincon made himself a Colombian national hero yesterday when he salvaged an apparently lost cause and sent the South Americans into the second round of the World Cup.

With the seconds on the clock kicking against him, the 23-year-old fired the ball through West German goalkeeper Bodo Illgner's legs to earn 1-1 draw in Group D in Milan.

The whole Colombian team went wild with delight and mobbed Rincon who disappeared under a sea of bodies.

The draw left them behind West Germany and Yugoslavia in the group but guaranteed them a berth in the last 16 as one of the best third placed teams.

In a bruising, physical encounter the Colombians seemed to be heading for the draw they needed until second half substitute Pierre Littbarski latched on to a Rudi Voeller pass one minute from time to put the West Germans ahead.

But captain Carlos Valderrama refused to



Valderrama being carried off the field after being tackled. He returned after a few minutes. (Reuters wirephoto)

see the dream of a first ever qualification for the group snatched away so cruelly. He drove his men on and provided the decisive pass for Rincon's goal, which deprived the West Germans of a 100 per cent record at the finals.

Ban relaxed

ROME, June 20, (Reuters): Rome authorities yesterday eased a World Cup alcohol ban after an angry campaign by restaurant owners and wine brewers, who dropped protest leaflets over the city.

Government prefect Alessandro Voci announced a partial lifting of the ban yesterday at about the same time as a plane chartered by farmers flew over the city dropping leaflets and towing a banner reading "Wine is not violence."

An alcohol ban has been claimed on all 12 World Cup cities on match days to discourage hooligans.

But restaurant and bar owners say they are losing billions of lire (millions of dollars) and the veto does nothing to stop violence.

Earlier, yesterday, police moved in to stop a protest outside parliament.

SPORTS

Seeded players advance

NES LLANES showed good form and outclassed obviously tired Alfredo Buzon, 6-3, 6-2 at the opening match of the All-Filipino Tennis Tournament at the Holiday Inn Hotel last Thursday in the class 'A' category. Nes needed only an hour and 15 minutes to finish the match.

Jun Patayno, who was in the doubles finals during last year's Palaro, defeated Dick Argulla, 6-3, 6-2. Another seeded player, Floro Pentecostie breezed through the second round by defeating Gene Nuevo, 6-3, 6-2.

Sporting Agassi's bright colour and jungle shorts, Chito Lumayag outplayed Willy Maranan, 6-1, 6-1. Chito never gave Willy a chance to get into the game who seemed to be having problems with his strokes.

Larry Dugue, a newcomer in the Kuwait scene, used his booming serve to defeat veteran Francis Una, 6-2, 6-2. Larry served a couple of aces combined with a fast and penetrating forehand to seal the match. Top seed Herbert Mendoza, the champion of last year's Palaro, second seed Nardo Cruz and third seed Benjie Aldecoa moved to the second round as they were given first round byes.

In class 'B', Albert Orozco succumbed to Danny Catacutan, 6-2, 6-4. Albert already an old hand in the tennis circuit was tired and out of form. Romy Mercado defeated Tabuada, 6-4, 7-6 while Rodrigo Doliente defeated Abraham Deliza, 6-1, 6-4. Dr Ninay Villanueva won by default over Nicmar Ruiz.

The longest match yet was between Rene Ventura and Romy Bala, 6-7, 7-6, 6-7 which lasted for 4 hours. They started play at 9.30 pm on Thursday and was stopped at 11 pm. Play was resumed on Friday at 4.30 and was finally over at 6.20 pm. This is on the class 'C' category. Top seed Jun Concepcion was the first to fall among the seeded players when he was outwitted by injured David Acedo.

David was downed twice because of leg cramps but he was still able to force Jun to commit the errors to win the match, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2. Homeo Babale squared Arturo Arroyo, 6-1, 6-0 while Hermogenes Tampay outplayed the younger Freddy Paguyo 5-7, 6-1, 6-3. Nick Villar and Sergio Perez advanced by default from Cesar Briones and Lito Ramos respectively.

A large enthusiastic crowd was always present and cheering on the players. Thanks to Canada Dry, everyone's thirst was quenched. Ice and super cups were simply supplied by Holiday Inn. This tournament is organised by Kay and Associates Tennis Club. The principal sponsors are National Bank, Kuwait, Kuwait Tourism and Shipping Corp., Al Jazeera Freight and Holiday Inn Hotel in cooperation with City International Exchange, Far East Bank, Mabuhay Restaurant and Canada Dry, the official soft drink of the tournament.

Donors are: Maharlika Novelty, Arlein's Handicrafts, Air France, Trendwave Shop and some individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Prizes include championship trophies, a place ticket to Manila, a weekend for two at the Holiday Inn Hotel, membership to the Holiday Inn health club as well as gift certificates.

Schedule of matches for today:
5:00 pm: R. Urot v J. Salvador, V. Dejasco v Manabat
6:00 pm: H. Otorde v G. Aguinaldo, E. Samay v R. Villar
7:00 pm: E. Cabrera v J. Hernandez, N. Villar v R. Alegre v E. Ramos, F. Paguyo
8:00 pm: S. Lago v V. Villacillo
Tomorrow's matches:
5:00 pm: M. Belardo v Pacamalan, G. Arrieta v E. Latorena
6:00 pm: R. Quidera v A. de la Cruz, E. Abayon v G. Sanez
7:00 pm: L. Crispin v A. Martinez, R. Jalier v R. Alangre
8:00 pm: D. Felix v B. Gonzales, E. Calisido v D. Jalbuena.

Capriati, Garrison defeated

Navratilova sails through



Navratilova crushed Benjamin

EASTBOURNE, England, June 20, (AP): Eight-time Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova swept through two rounds of the Pilkington Glass Women's Tournament yesterday, losing just eight games.

No. 2 seed Zina Garrison and 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, both from the United States, were defeated in the second round at this south England resort.

Navratilova, back on grass for the first time since losing to World No. 1 Steffi Graf in last year's Wimbledon final, defeated Californian Camille Benjamin 6-2, 6-1 and Australian Anne Minter 6-2, 6-3. Against Benjamin, she won 10 of the last 11 games.

"Today I was a little nervous at the beginning and it wasn't a whole lot of fun because the conditions were tough. It was windy," 33-year-old Navratilova said after her two victories. "But I'm playing pain-free and at my age it's a big bonus."

Most players had two rounds yesterday because of rain on Monday, the opening day.

Garrison advanced to the second round when fellow American Elise Burgin retired at 6-1, 4-0, because she felt ill.

But in her second match of the day Garrison was beaten 6-2, 7-5 by Italian Laura Golarsa.

"Normally I praise my opponents if they play well, but today I was terrible," said Garrison. "I just wasn't there."

Sixth-seeded Capriati looked cheerful after beating Texan Ann Smith 6-2, 7-5, including saving a set point in the second set.

"I think it (grass) is a neat surface. I didn't have any trouble on it," Capriati told a news conference.

But after she went down in the second match 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 to Gretchen Magers of the United States, ranked 32nd in the world, Capriati did not speak to reporters.

She had a commanding 4-1 lead in the second set, and then suddenly lost her touch.

"Her game just fell away. I think she was tired," said 26-year-old Magers.

Women's Tennis Association spokeswoman Robin Reynolds said, "There was an agreement that everyone could get quotes after her (Capriati's) first match at 3.30 in the afternoon to save everyone waiting around until late in the evening."

"It was a deal I made with her and I am going to stick by it," she added.

Capriati later played a qualifying doubles match.

In other matches, No. 3 seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, No. 5 seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union and seventh-seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia all won two matches to go into the third round.

Other players who notched two victories yesterday were ninth-seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, 14th-seed Lilia Meskhi of the Soviet Union and No. 15 Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden.

Hadlee faces final challenge

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): Richard Hadlee, the latest cricketing knight faces, the final challenge of an illustrious career tomorrow as New Zealand strive for an historic first victory at Lord's.

Hadlee has achieved every personal target since his Test debut 17 years ago but he would dearly love to be a member of the first New Zealand team to beat England at cricket's headquarters.

Twenty-two of Hadlee's world record 419 Test victims have been collected in three appearances at Lord's with one five wicket haul in each Test.

As always, New Zealand will lean heavily on his peerless skills in a match where, the respective batting lineups look stronger than the bowling attacks.

England's senior batsmen, Captain Graham Gooch and his vice-captain Allan Lamb, both fell victim to Hadlee for ducks in the drawn first Test at Trent Bridge.

But England still scored 345 for nine declared in their only innings with Mike Atherton confirming his big match temperament with 151.

The opposing captain, John Wright, who scored a pair in the 1986 Lord's Test, has three Test centuries to his credit this year and he heads the strongest New Zealand batting lineup since the gifted 1949 tourists.

Mark Greatbatch, who has averaged 57 in his 12 Tests to date, has scored only four runs in his last four innings, including one in his only knock at Trent Bridge.

New Zealand manager Bob Cunis is confident, however, that the run of low scores will come to an end.

"In the past he's been a player for the big occasions," Cunis said. "Once we get into the atmosphere of a Test, hopefully, he'll be alright."

Teams (from):
England — Graham Gooch (captain), Mike Atherton, Alec Stewart, Allan Lamb, Robin Smith, Neil Fairbrother, Jack Russell, Philip DeFreitas, Gladstone Smith, Chris Lewis, Eddie Hemmings, Devon Malcolm (one to be omitted).

New Zealand (probable) — John Wright (captain), Trevor Franklin, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Mark Priest, Ken Rutherford, John Bracewell, Richard Hadlee, Ian Smith, Martin Snedden, Danny Morrison.

Super Royal clinch title

SUPER ROYAL won the Benazir Trophy cricket tournament with a victory over Siddique Cricket Club at the NC Ground earlier this week.

Batting first Siddique put on 188 runs in their 25 overs. Tariq batted well for his 33 runs while Rauf scored 28 and Malik 26. Robin took three wickets while Wasem and Suhail took two each.

Super Royal started their innings badly, losing their first two wickets for only 10 runs. Khalid and Masood then went for the runs before the latter was out for 34.

Suhail was out after scoring 27 but Khalid remained unbeaten on 90 as Super Royal past the victory target. Khalid took the Man of the Match award.



Khalid: unbeaten 90

Leibrandt takes Braves past Reds

ATLANTA, June 20, (AP): Charlie Leibrandt pitched a six-hit shutout to end Cincinnati's six-game winning streak as the Atlanta Braves beat the Reds 3-0 to stop a six-game slide in the nightcap of a two-night Major League Baseball doubleheader yesterday.

The Reds won the opener 4-2 with a ninth-inning rally that featured a solo home run by Chris Sabo and a go-ahead RBI single by Glenn Braggs.

Leibrandt (2-0) walked none and struck out one. Atlanta took a 2-0 lead off Rick Mahler (1-2) in the first inning of the second game on an RBI single by Ron Gant and a hit batsman, Jim Presley's eighth homer, off Tim Lincecum in the eighth, accounted for the other Atlanta run in the nightcap.

Results	
American League	
Detroit	4 Oakland 6
Cleveland	5 Baltimore 4
Boston	4 Toronto 2
California	4 Chicago 3
Kansas City	3 Seattle 1
Texas	5 Minnesota 1
NY Yankees	5 Milwaukee 4
National League	
Cincinnati	4 Atlanta 2
Atlanta	3 Cincinnati 0
Chicago Cubs	2 Montreal 1
NY Mets	6 St. Louis 0
Philadelphia	6 Pittsburgh 1
L. Angeles	5 Houston 1
San Diego	4 S. Francisco 3

Richards, Moody slam centuries

LONDON, June 20, (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards and Australian Tom Moody both scored over 160 runs yesterday to earn their English counties improbable championship wins.

Richards took Glamorgan to a four-wicket win over Hampshire at Southampton with an undefeated 164, while Moody blasted 168 to give Warwickshire a two-wicket success at Derby and took them to the top of the table.

It was Richards' fourth century this season for his new county. With Glamorgan at 139 for five — chasing 364 — he hammered five sixes and 17 fours off 155 balls.

Moody hit 112 of his runs in boundaries, including six sixes, as Warwickshire chalked up their fourth championship win by reaching a daunting 350 target with six balls to spare.

Middlesex also stepped up

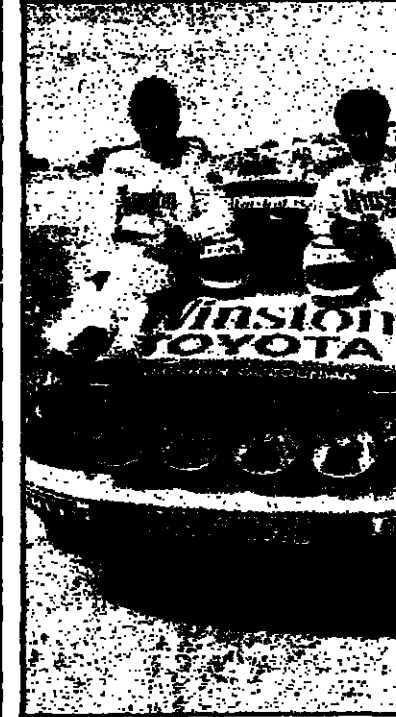


At Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex, Middlesex beat Leicestershire by 103 runs. Middlesex 295 in 88.1 overs and 116 for one declared. Leicestershire 91 for two declared and 217. (T. Boun 51, J. Benson 45, Emburey 4-57). Middlesex 19 points, Leicestershire four.

At the Oval: Surrey v Worcestershire, match drawn. Worcestershire 300 for nine declared in 100 overs and 84 for no wicket. Surrey 67 for one declared in 30.2 overs and 244 for seven. (C. Glinton 80, A. Stewart 55, G. Hick 3-20). Surrey four points, Worcestershire four.

At Derby: Derbyshire v Warwickshire, Warwickshire beat Derbyshire by four wickets. Derbyshire 475 for four declared in 130.2 overs, forfeited second innings. Warwickshire 126 for one declared in 26 overs and 353 for eight. (T. Moody 168), D. Ostler 42, not out, D. Malcolm 4-63). Derbyshire four points.

Standings	
English county championship cricket table, after matches which ended yesterday (table under, played, won, lost, drawn, batting points, bowling points, total)	
Warwickshire	8 4 1 3 18 22 104
Hampshire	8 3 1 4 28 16 92
Lancashire	7 3 0 4 21 21 90
Notts	7 3 1 3 20 21 89
Derbyshire	8 3 2 3 27 13 88
Glamorgan	8 3 2 3 18 21 87
Middlesex	7 3 0 4 23 14 85
Somerset	9 1 1 7 27 20 83
Northants	7 1 4 2 20 26 62
Kent	7 2 2 3 20 7 59
Essex	8 1 1 6 30 9 55
Leicester	8 1 2 5 21 17 54
Worcestershire	6 1 1 4 19 13 48
Sussex	7 1 3 3 15 13 44
Gloucester	7 0 4 3 18 16 34
Yorkshire	7 0 4 3 15 17 32
Surrey	7 0 1 6 14 18 40



Bin Sulayem (right) with co-driver Ronan Morgan. Right, Sulayem and team manager Terry Plant.

Bin Sulayem goes for victory

THERE are few more imposing backdrops to the start of an international rally than the splendid Blue Mosque which gazes down on Istanbul's Ayasofya Square.

Rising sharply, its four minarets tower over the crowds whose chattering is drowned by bellowing engines.

It's an atmosphere that Mohammed bin Sulayem knows well, and one he looks forward to experience again on June 29.

For the Middle East champion believes that the Gunaydin Turkish International Rally owes him a favour after twice in successive years refusing him a place in the record books.

Their main rival will be Emre Yellici, the Turkish champion who has accepted the victory laurels to great cheers in Ayasofya Square for the past two years.

Last year, his Lancia Delta Integrals must have breathed a mechanical sigh of relief when Sulayem's Winston Toyota came to a sudden halt.

Until then, the Arab world's top driver had been setting a red-hot pace which Yellici and French star Jean Ragnotti — among others — simply could not match.

"I remember Ragnotti coming up to me at the end of one stage and congratulating me on my time," said Sulayem. "It was a nice gesture. But it would be nicer if someone did the same thing at the end of the rally this time."



The Featherights receive their trophies

Darts players receive awards

THE Gazelle Club, Abu Halifa, recently played host to a Mouchel Kuwait Darts League event, as players from all 30 teams came together to give themselves a collective pat on the back at the annual dinner and awards ceremony.

Proceedings were swiftly set in motion as over 250 trophies were distributed in the early part of the evening. Main sponsors L.G. Mouchel & Partners were represented by Nigel Lightbody who handed out the 1989-90 League awards.

Popular Mixed Doubles Champions John and Margaret Watson received the best ovation of the night, when they were presented with their T.N.T. Skypak trophies by Dean Edwards of the company.

Aside from the main sponsors several lucky winners also received additional gifts donated by Rothmans International, The Video Club, Seaman's Friend, Fabbahel, Caesar's Restaurant and the SAS Hotel.

Many familiar faces were in evidence as many individual players and teams retained trophies won the previous year.

Even so, an outstanding year of good natured competition did result in three of the four leagues producing new champions: Featherlights, Monroes and Zero Down, as only Soweto Slingers held their title for a second year. Much to the relief of most members, the 1989-90 season did see Ian Thomas lose his first individual competition for three years, Mike Dirkin brushing him aside on the other way to the men's singles crown.

At the other end of the scale, both men's Leagues finished up with identical wooden spoonists as in the previous year, Stars of the Year and Fintas Flyers. Amongst the teams in the bottom

half of each division, the Wooster Spoon award is highly prized, as shown by the friendly banter between Brian Sutham and Wayne Mooko as to who should be the first to look after their Spoons.

Exiles got together and produced a special award for their "long term member Phil Reavey, as he was presented with a trophy that reflected the stature that he enjoyed within the team. All the teams in each League voted during the evening for the most social team in their League, for the final awards of the occasion, the Petes Kyle Trophies.

Runaway winners on a Monday were Brahm's & Liszt, who take over from two years of Pacificists dominance. Once again the Wednesday voting produced no clear winner, as four play Soweto Slingers ended up tied for first place.

The occasion also allowed the whole of the Mouchel Darts League to show their appreciation for the hard work and unstinting effort put in by Ian Thomas on his retirement from the position of league secretary.

Thomas has been league secretary since 1988 and it is through his efforts that the Salmiya, Longdon and Browning and Abu Halifa Leagues were combined at the beginning of the 1988 season into the thriving League of thirty teams we know today.

In appreciation of his efforts Mr Thomas was presented with a wrist-watch which every member of the Mouchel Darts league had contributed. Mrs Jane Thomas was also presented with a bouquet of flowers, for her good natured acceptance of the endless phone calls and always managing a smile when necessary.

Hockey tournament results

AMSTELVEEN, Netherlands, June 20, (Reuters): Results on the fourth day's play in a men's international hockey tournament yesterday.

Netherlands beat Spain 3-2 (halftime 2-1).

Standings after four days (table under matches played, points won, goals for, against):

Australia	2 4 6 3
Netherlands	3 4 8 6
Pakistan	3 4 7 5
India	3 4 7 6
West Germany	2 1 3 4
Spain	3 1 6 10
Britain	2 0 2 5

Scorers: Netherlands — Floris Jan Bovelander (2), Gijs Weterings
Spain — Ignacio Escude (2)
India beat Pakistan 4-2 (halftime 2-0)
Scorers: India — Jagbir Singh,

Cauthen rides two winners at Royal Ascot

ASCOT, England, June 20, (Reuters): American Steve Cauthen starred on the opening day of Royal Ascot yesterday with a masterly 44-1 double on Shavian and Private Tender, both trained by Henry Cecil.

The 30-year-old former British champion jockey served up the biggest surprise of the day.

He expertly dictated the pace on 11-1 shot Shavian in the St James's Palace Stakes, a group one race for three-year-olds run over a mile (1.6 km).

Cauthen confidently shot the colt straight into the lead, and never looked like losing it, striding powerfully up the straight to beat Rock City (1-2) by one and a half lengths, with 9-4 favourite Lord Florey a creditable third.

Shavian's genial 77-year-old owner-breeder, Lord Howard de Walden, who won the Epsom Derby with Slip Anchor in 1985, said: "That's the biggest surprise of my life. I've been moaning about my luck. I've had only four winners this season and this is a tremendous boost."

Cauthen rode a more patient race on one-time Derby hope Private Tender in a sub-standard King Edward VII Stakes, hitting the front on the 11-4 favourite and entering the final furlong (200 metres) to score by two and a half lengths.

Champion Pat Eddery had just one winner from five rides but was seen at his very best in victory.

The Irishman forced 2-1 favourite Bathosh past Cauthen and the front-running Relief Pitcher in the dying strides of the Prince of Wales's Stakes for a short head success.

South African Michael Roberts was banned for two days for excessive use of the whip on 12-1 winner Retouch, two length winner of the two and a half mile (4 km) Ascot Handicap.

Roberts said: "It is difficult when you ride tiring horses. He was hanging in ... and I tried to correct it and hit him down the shoulder. I accept I broke the rules."

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SPORTS

Standings

Collated World Cup standings after Tuesday's games (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A	3	3	0	0	4	0	6
Italy	3	3	0	0	6	3	4
Czechoslovakia	3	1	0	2	3	3	2
Austria	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
United States	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Group B	3	2	0	1	3	5	4
Cameroun	3	2	0	1	4	3	3
Romania	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Argentina	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Soviet Union	3	1	0	2	4	4	2
Group C	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Brazil	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Costa Rica	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Sweden	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Group D	3	2	0	0	10	3	5
W. Germany	3	2	0	0	10	3	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	0	10	3	5
UAE	3	0	0	3	2	11	0
Group E	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Belgium	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Spain	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Uruguay	2	0	0	2	1	3	1
South Korea	2	0	0	2	1	3	1
Group F	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
England	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
Ireland	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
Egypt	2	0	0	2	1	1	2

NOTES: Results of Brazil vs Scotland and Sweden vs Costa Rica not included.

Today's matches: (1) Belgium vs Spain (6.00 pm, Kuwait time), (2) South Korea vs Uruguay (6.00 pm), (3) Egypt vs England (10.00 pm), (4) Ireland vs the Netherlands (10.00 pm).

Matches No. (1) and (3) will be telecast live by KTV.

Cup teams figuring out their fortunes

ROME, June 20. (Reuters): The fortunes of many World Cup teams now depend more on maths than marksmanship.

The system of winnowing 16 second round teams from the original 24 starters is so complex that world champions Argentina have to wait until tomorrow night to know both their next venue and their opponents.

They think they will meet Brazil in Turin — but no-one can be completely sure yet.

The method is simple enough at first sight.

The top two teams from each of the six first round groups qualify for the second round. That makes 12 — and so far so good.

Deciding the next four places is generating hours of seemingly endless permutations.

Under Fifa rules, the four best third-placed teams from the six groups go through. Priority goes to those with the most points so countries who have three are obviously better off than those with two.

If this cannot separate the four best, then the calculation is based on the better goal difference. Following the old soccer logic, if you score more than you concede you have a better chance of winning.

If sides have the same goal difference, advantage is given to those who have scored the most. So a goal difference of 4-2 is better than 3-1.

If this still fails, then lots are drawn.

After the first two groups — B and D — had finished, Argentina and Colombia had both guaranteed their berth in the last 16 as two of the four best third-placed teams.

Positive

Both had three points and a positive goal difference — in each case 3-2. As no team finishing third in either Group A or Group F could possibly beat this, their places were secure.

That leaves two 'best of the rest' places up for grabs in the last four groups. To complicate matters, even teams who lost their first two games are still in contention.

Providing a team does not finish bottom of the group, two points and a reasonable goal difference could well be enough for qualification.

When Austria met the United States in Group A yesterday for example, both still had a chance of going through even though neither had a single point before their final game.

Group C, if Brazil beat Scotland and Sweden defeat Costa Rica, results which do not defy logic, all the teams except Brazil will end on two points. Brazil with four points have already qualified.

The team with the best goal difference would then go through as second-placed in the group. The next best would stand a chance as a candidate for a third-place qualification and the last would automatically be eliminated.

Dutch and Irish seek to reach next round of World Cup

PALERMO, June 20. (Reuters): The Dutch and Irish must go for broke tomorrow to be sure of emerging from the Group F and move into the next round. A similar situation developed during the last European Championships.

The Dutch needed a win to pip the Irish for a semifinal place. A disputed late goal by Wim Kieft settled it and sent the Dutch on the road to the title.

Beenhakker may be tempted to recall Kieft tomorrow to lend more support to star striker Marco van Basten, who has yet to score in the tournament and is being treated for a sore knee.

The Dutch coach may also gamble on 20-year-old winger Bryan Roy to try to unlock the solid Irish defence.

"The Irish work very hard and play very tightly together, leaving some room on the flanks," he said, adding that Ireland's unsophisticated long-ball style was difficult to counter.

"They play over the midfield and try to create as many situations as possible in front of goal, looking for a break. They're very hard to play against," he said.

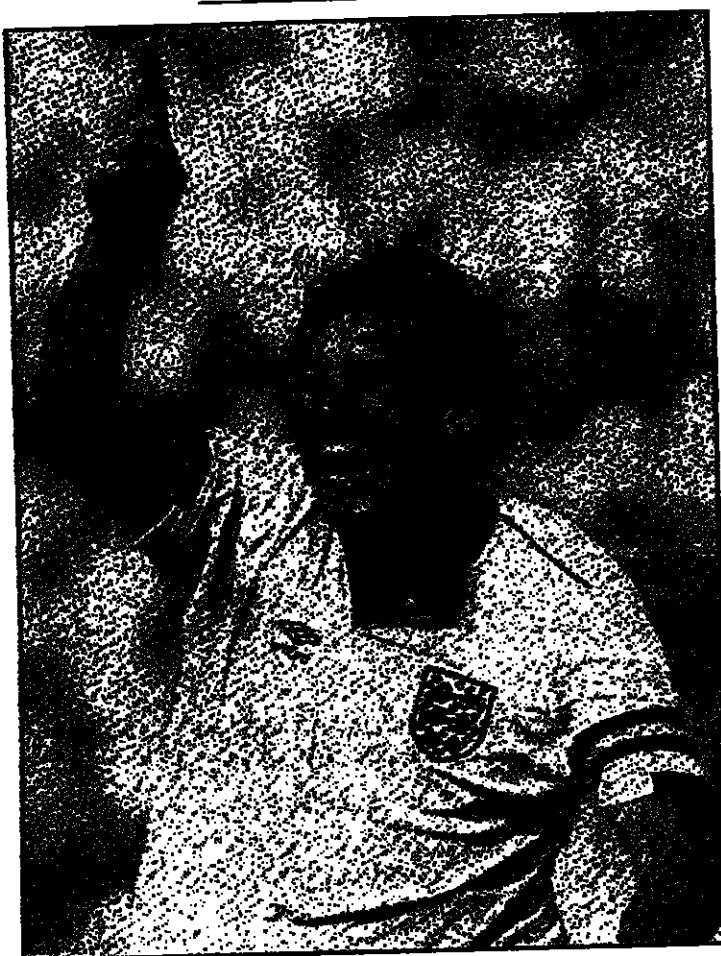
Ireland, unbeaten in their last 15 games, must decide whether to recall Ronnie Whelan to add some guile to their hard-running midfield which failed to find a way through the Egyptian defence in a dull 0-0 draw on Sunday.

Whelan has said he has recovered from a thigh strain but coach Charlton has yet to include him in a World Cup team.

Kickoff: Thursday, 10.00 pm (Kuwait Time)

England set to take on Egypt

Robson flies in faith healer to cure heel injury



Robson: desperate to get fit

CAGLIARI, June 20. (Reuters): England, even without the inspiration of captain Bryan Robson, are confident they will have the edge over unyielding Egypt in their decisive final World Cup Group F match tomorrow.

After a disappointing draw with Ireland in their opening game, England lifted their game and their spirits with a 0-0 draw against European champions the Netherlands last Saturday.

Coach Bobby Robson, reticent and unsmiling for most of these finals, has been buoyant since his re-shaped team, with its five-man defensive system, sparked into life against the Dutch.

"The players know they performed well and they feel good about it," he said.

"Now we have to continue the good form and complete the job of qualifying for the second round. We do not fear Egypt, but we do respect them."

"They have collected their points quite comfortably by dropping back behind the ball and making it very difficult. It may be that long-range shots could be a worth a dip."

Victories are desperately needed in Group F where, after two matches, all four teams are stalemated on two points each with identical 1-1 goal differences.

If the final group matches between England and Egypt and the Netherlands and Ireland both end in draws with identical scores, organisers must draw lots to decide which teams go through to the last 16.

In the absence of Bryan Robson, England will probably choose either Neil Webb or Steve McMahon in midfield alongside Paul Gascoigne and may consider selecting Steve Bull, a Second Division striker with Wolves, for his first full appearance of the finals.

Bull, who has scored 130 goals in three seasons, could ease out Chris Waddle and provide extra physical thrust and strength.

Striker Gary Lineker, scorer of England's goal against Ireland and top scorer in the 1986 finals, is expected to recover from a damaged toe to play.

Lineker's marksmanship could be crucial in England's first World Cup meeting with Egypt if openings are as scarce as expected against the packed defences of coach Mahmoud El Gohari's team.

Central defender Hani Ramzi has marshalled Egypt's rearguard into a formidable bulwark which has conceded only one goal and has offered further proof of the progress being made by North African nations in international soccer.

In 1986, England's World Cup ambitions almost collapsed when they were held by 0-0 by Morocco who went on to become the first African nation to reach the second round.

El Gohari hopes to emulate that achievement and joint Cameroon, already qualified, in the second round.

Egypt's attack is likely to rest upon Magdi Abdel Ghani and the pacey Hosam Hassan.

Bryan Robson has paid for a faith healer to fly to Sardinia to attempt to cure the heel injury.

England manager Bobby Robson said today the faith healer, Olga Stringfellow, had treated Robson for injuries three times in the last 18 months.

"We are not regarding this as a last resort," Robson said. "But it gives him another chance to get fit for the match. A decision on whether he will play will be taken on medical and scientific grounds."

Stringfellow was expected to arrive in Sardinia this evening, said Robson.

"It is Bryan's prerogative. He came and told us about it and he had done it all with our knowledge. It shows how passionate he is about playing in the match."

"In the last 18 months he has gone to see her three times and he says on every occasion she has helped him."



US players

United States World Cup soccer team goalkeepers David Vanoli (right) and Tony Meola relax on the beach at Tirrenia, Italy, yesterday. The US team was eliminated from the finals on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 22)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton bridge game held on Tuesday:

- N/S
1. Chebli & Boukharis
2. Banayot & Gajjar
3. Dr Zaid & Abdeen
E/W
1. D. Pereira & Sapre
2. Nisar & Ikram
3. Tomar & J. Burke

Milne back

AUCKLAND, June 20. (Reuters): Scotland today brought back bookie Ken Milne as one of two changes for the second rugby union test against the All Blacks at Eden Park.

France lose

SYDNEY, June 20. (Reuters): France outscored Sydney by five tries to four today but still lost their rugby union match 36-26.

Yanov wins

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 20. (AP): Dmitry Yanov of the Soviet Union finished in the lead pack yesterday, maintaining his 42-second advantage to become the first amateur to win the Tour of Sweden cycling race.

Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, June 20. (AP): The 1988 women's world figure skating champion Midori Ito of Japan will not compete in the Goodwill Games and two-time men's world champion Kurt Browning of Canada will likely miss the event too.

\$6 million offer

DENVER, June 20. (AP): Georgetown University coach John Thompson is considering an offer worth more than \$6 million to become general manager of the Denver Nuggets.

WORLD CUP NOTEBOOK

Maradona hides: Diego Maradona, angered by Argentina's failure to win their World Cup group, has been hiding away in his room as he strives to overcome an ankle injury before the world champions' second round match.

Scots seek Cup tickets: Hundreds of Scottish soccer fans roamed the streets of Turin yesterday searching desperately for tickets for Scotland's World Cup match against Brazil.

Czech coach to quit: Czechoslovakia coach Josef Venglos says he will leave the national team after the World Cup. Venglos, who took over the team in 1988, has guided Czechoslovakia to the second round of the finals for the first time since 1962.

Four English fans freed: Four fans detained in last Saturday's clashes with police before England's World Cup match against the Netherlands were released yesterday for lack of evidence, court sources said.

Yugoslavia must strengthen defence: Yugoslavia must improve their defence if they are to survive the second round of the World Cup, says coach Ivica Osim.

Cup song goes to top ten: Forget House music or Rap, Luciano Pavarotti is the new kid on the block of the British pop charts with a song used as the theme for the BBC's World Cup soccer coverage. Pavarotti's rendition of "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's Opera, "Turandot," jumped to number three in the top ten singles chart.

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